

Wednesday December 20 1995

Abu Dhabi D 0.50
Albania L 2.20
Andorra FF 10
Australia A 0.80
Austria S 1.30
Belgium BF 60
Belarus L 1.70
Bosnia KM 12.50
Cyprus C 0.50
Czech Republic KC 45
Denmark DK 14
Estonia EE 10
Finland FM 11
France FF 10
Germany DM 3.50
Greece G 500
Hong Kong HK 23
Hungary H 100
Iceland IK 100
India IN 8.90
Italy I 2.200
Japan Y 110
Korea KR 100
Latvia LV 2
Lithuania LT 1.50
Luxembourg LF 2.50
Moldova MD 1.50
Netherlands NL 3.75
Norway NK 15
Oman OM 100
Pakistan PK 70
Poland Z 2.70
Portugal P 220
Qatar QR 8.50
Romania RO 2.20
Saudi Arabia R 10
Slovakia SK 15
Slovenia SI 1.200
Spain P 200
Sweden SK 15
Switzerland SF 3
Thailand TH 8.90
Turkey TL 100.000
Ukraine UA 2.00
USA US 2.75

The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL
NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

46,429

Bowled over

Imran Khan on life, love and Allah

Guardian 2 with European weather

Society

Cancer: the inside story?

G2 page 11

Joanna Coles on Ashby v Ashby

A woman spurned

G2 cover story



Tory rebels humble Major

Michael White
Political Editor

THE GOVERNMENT suffered an ignominious end-term rebuff in the Commons last night when Conservative Euro-sceptics ignored £12 million of last-minute sweeteners to the fishing industry and joined the Opposition in rejecting the European Union's common fisheries policy.

The symbolic two-vote defeat on the last full day before the Christmas recess came despite ministerial blandishments reversing spending cuts in last month's budget — and warnings to angry backbenchers that withdrawal from the CFP behind 200 million national limits would not solve the problems of dwindling Atlantic fish stocks.

Last night's 259-297 vote came after most of the "whipless" Tory sceptics — who briefly lost the party whip after a revolt a year ago — decided to abstain and Labour's new chief whip, Donald Dewar, pulled the stops out to bring in all but the sickest of absent MPs to clinch John Major's embattled second term.

Whips estimated that 25 Tories either abstained or were not there. For a government which ended 1994 with a damaging revolt over Europe it was a demoralising reminder that John Redwood's unsuccessful leadership challenge has not healed a Euro-rift re-opened by last weekend's Madrid summit.

Mr Dewar said: "This is a very important psychological blow against the Government as we approach the Christmas recess. It underlines the deep unhappiness on the Tory benches and the deep divisions over Europe which the Prime Minister has been quite unable to disguise. He has tried to appease the sceptics and it has not worked."

Labour's amendment, criticising ministers' failure to protect British interests from Brussels-imposed fish quotas and aggressive Spanish fishing, was defeated by 305 votes to 297.

Labour, the Liberal Democrats, Scots, Welsh and Northern Irish Nationalists, plus all nine of David Trimble's Ulster Unionists — many with direct local fishing interests — voted together at the close of an often emotional and embittered debate. One right-wing Tory, John Timpson, accused his former premier Sir Edward Heath of "betraying the British fishing industry" when he took the UK into the European Community in 1973. Sir Edward defended his record and insisted: "I am not a traitor to my country."

The Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth, countered with charges that Labour were opportunist "sell-out merchants" who had never objected to the terms of Spain's 1986 admission to the EU.

Though ministers pulled a few waverers back into line — like David Harris, pro-European MP for St Ives — hostile colleagues were not appeased by the last-minute toughening of the fisheries minister, Tony Baldry, of Britain's negotiating stance on fish quotas when he flies to Brussels tonight.

Mr Baldry's concessions restored harbour restoration and marketing schemes dropped by Kenneth Clarke, each worth £2 million a year for three years. They also included £100,000 compensation from Spain for Cornish drift-nets damaged in the tuna war. It was not enough.

After the vote Labour's fishery spokesman, Gavin Strang, spoke of the "whole repudiation of the Government's policy" which had cost the Cabinet the confidence of the Commons, but avoided direct challenge of an immediate vote of confidence. Mr Dewar said: "The question now is whether this government can last another year; it's in chaos."

Mr Cartiss said: "If the message coming out of the House is that we don't want people in the EU to have control over our fish and fishing rights then the right message is going out. The fact is government no longer has control over a large industry."



Guardian's wise women replace Clarke's men

TWO of the Guardian's Wise Women were yesterday picked to join the Chancellor's panel of six economic experts, writes Sarah Ryle.

Bridget Rosewell, aged 38, is chief economist of the Confederation of British Industry, and Kate Barker (right), 44, co-founder of the consultants Business Strategies Limited. They



become the first women to join the Treasury panel since it was set up in 1992.

The Guardian established its own panel after criticism that the seven original advisers were all men.

Details, page 11

Tears in court as Tory David Ashby loses action over Sunday Times claim of gay affair



David Ashby leaving the High Court in London yesterday at the end of his unsuccessful libel action against the Sunday Times. The case lasted four weeks. PHOTOGRAPH: RUSSELL BOYCE

"It gives me no pleasure to see my husband lose an expensive libel action. I hope that it will not have a terrible effect on him"

— Silvana Ashby (right) after the verdict



£400,000 bill for MP in libel defeat

Martin Linton

CONSERVATIVE MP David Ashby faces a legal bill estimated at £400,000 after losing his libel case over allegations in the Sunday Times that he is a homosexual. However, it seems unlikely he will cause John Major further trouble by being declared bankrupt and disqualified from the Commons.

No MP has been disqualified for bankruptcy since 1938. Lawyers believe Mr Ashby, a barrister, will be able to agree repayment schedules and avoid eroding any further the Government's precarious majority.

Mr Ashby was given a warm welcome by fellow MPs as he took his seat for Prime Minister's questions three hours after his trial ended like the final act of a Greek tragedy, with husband and wife left crying on opposite sides of an empty courtroom.

There was a moment of pathos as Mr Ashby's wife Silvana, who gave evidence for the Sunday Times, went over to him and told him she was sorry. When she tried to kiss him, she was brushed aside and told: "Leave me alone."

She insisted outside the court that she still loved him just as he has always insisted that he loves her, but the jury heard evidence during the four-week case that established the Ashbys as one of the most dysfunctional families since the Windsors.

Throwing plates, brandishing knives, threatening to stab or set fire to one another, leaving obscene messages on answering machines, shouting obscenities through letter-boxes were all paraded in evidence before the jury.

Mr Ashby issued a statement through his solicitors, Peter Carter-Ruck and Partners, that he was "deeply disappointed" by the decision and was grateful for the support of his constituents in a traumatic ordeal.

The jury took five hours to reach a majority verdict in favour of the Sunday Times, who claimed that Mr Ashby was a homosexual and was having an affair with an Irish doctor, Clarian Kilduff.

The newspaper's star witness was Mrs Ashby, who

Fastest route to a by-election

December 1995

Ashby loses case

26 days

Appeal against finding

6-9 months

Taxation proceedings

2-3 months

Appeal against taxation

26 days

Bankruptcy notice

1 day

Bankruptcy hearing

October 1996

Earliest date for bankruptcy

6 months

Could sit but not vote

April 1997

Earliest date for by-election

May 1997

Latest date for election

claimed her husband had confessed to her that he was a homosexual when they ended their 23-year-old marriage. She sounded less certain after the court case. Asked if she was convinced her husband was a homosexual, she said: "I don't know. It was up to the jury."

In a prepared statement she said: "It gives me no pleasure to see my husband lose an expensive libel action. I hope that it will not have a terrible effect on him."

She ended by quoting the proverb "least said, soonest mended" but agreed to give interviews on conditions laid down by Sunday Times lawyer Alastair Brett that she should get prior sight of what was intended to be published.

Her husband, the MP for Leicestershire North-West, looked stunned by the verdict. He took refuge in the Inner Temple, barring the way to journalists, and later issued a two-line statement through his solicitor.

His costs will not be known until the taxation proceedings are complete, which can take six to nine months, but lawyers put the cost of a four-week libel trial at £150,000 to £200,000 for each side.

The Sunday Times used its own legal department which may reduce the costs, and Mr Brett said he was sure editor John Witherow would be sensible about recovering costs. "We will have to show magnanimity in victory."

Italian-born Mrs Ashby is unlikely to have to pay any of her husband's bill. She lives in the £200,000 family home in London and has a quarter share worth about £1 million in her father's estate of 33 flats in Italy, but her inheritance will be protected by the Married Women's Property Act and, as the wife of a Lloyd's partner, the marital house is likely to be in her own name.

Mr Ashby has a flat which he bought for £80,000. He is a Lloyd's casualty with admitted financial problems.

A woman spurned, G2 cover story

Lottery boss put on probation

Free flights were 'unwise' but Bottomley stands by her man

David Hencke
Westminster Correspondent

PETER Davis, the embattled £84,000-a-year lottery regulator, was effectively put on probation for the next three years by Virginia Bottomley last night when she announced she would back him so long as he never makes another error of judgment.

The National Heritage Secretary made it clear in a letter that she did not approve of his decision, taken against the advice of her officials, to accept five free flights from GTEch, a shareholder of Camelot, the lottery operator, when visiting the US.

She said in a letter lodged in the Commons library: "I have told you that I do not think your acceptance of the flights was wise in the context of your role as regulator of the lottery. You are making a full report on your overseas travel and hospitality arrangements to the Public Accounts Committee. You have assured me that there are no other issues which may come to light subsequently which could affect my decision in this matter."

She added that Mr Davis's need, as director-general of Oflot, to work closely with Camelot "makes it all the more important that you should maintain a proper distance from the company ...

taking all steps to guard against any possible misunderstanding of your actions."

Mrs Bottomley's decision — taken after a meeting with Michael Heseltine, Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday morning — was last night attacked by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, who had been calling on Mr Davis to resign.

Labour's shadow heritage spokesman, Jack Cunningham, said: "Mrs Bottomley's decision will be greeted with incredulity."

"Mr Davis's lack of judgment has in turn exposed a serious flaw in the judgment of the Secretary of State."

The Liberal Democrat national heritage spokesman, Robert MacLennan, said: "When her own department guidelines have been flagrantly disobeyed regarding accepting hospitality, Virginia Bottomley is apparently

willing to turn a blind eye. Mr Davis is not fit to regulate a million pound business if he cannot regulate his own behaviour."

Mrs Bottomley said on Channel 4 News that it was the integrity and honesty of Mr Davis that made up her mind to keep him in his post.

Mr Davis became embroiled in a row after his admission to Alan Williams, Labour MP for Swansea West at the Commons Public Accounts Committee last week that he accepted the flights.

He also stayed at the Long Island home of the firm's non-executive director, Carl Menges, a friend for 20 years.

On Monday, after Mr Davis had a two-hour meeting with Mrs Bottomley, he declared that he was "going back to work".

Please see page 5

Heartburn.

One repeat you

can avoid

this Christmas.

Pepcid AC controls the production of excess stomach acid for up to 9 hours. So even if you can't stomach any more repeats this Christmas, at least your heartburn can be taken care of.

Ask your pharmacist about Pepcid AC.



LONG-LASTING ACID CONTROL

ALWAYS READ THE LABEL. CONTAINS FAMOTIDINE.

Inside

G2

Inside Story 4/5
Portrait 7
Arts 8/9
Society 10/11
Parents 12/13

Quick Crossword 15
Cartoons 15
Puzzle 16
Television 16
Weather 16



9 770261 307330

Sketch

Forsyth is beastly in cod light of day



Simon Hoggart

THE pantomime season opened in the Commons yesterday. Betty Boothroyd would make a fine Principal Boy, slapping her thighs and promising her cat (Robin Cook MP) that she will take him to London. Many backbenchers could play the Dame, without making up. When John Major arrived, Dennis Canavan started hissing, as if he were one of the bawli's men, come to foreclose on Baron Hardup. Mr Canavan kept hissing for quite some time. Perhaps Dennis Skinner was playing But-tons, shouting at the end: "Come on, you can do better than that!"

Question Time turned into a brawl about rail privatisation. Mr Major said this would improve services. Mr Blair demanded that he guarantee services would at least stay the same. "Not hope it, not wish it, guarantee it."

Mr Major asked when Labour would realise that railway services were already improving.

Mr Blair's reply reminded me of a wonderful Guardian column by Michael Frya, in which he imagined how Mozart would have written prose, full of repetition and minor variation.

"We will realise it when he guarantees that the service level will remain the same, guarantee it, guarantee it! We will listen to him when he guarantees that service levels will remain the same."

Then the coda, the sudden and dramatic ending: "Hasn't his year ended, much as it began — in weakness, chaos and incompetence?"

Next came the debate on European fisheries. The Government had chosen a right-wing beast, Michael Forsyth, to put it case.

This is in spite of the fact that Mr Forsyth is not even the relevant minister, being the Secretary of State for Scot-

land. Presumably the plan was that the anti-European right would be silenced by hearing from someone even more beastly than them.

It did not work. The Eur-phobes — Gill, Wilkinson, Von Marlow — were in force, all demanding promises and insisting on undertakings.

For a Beast, Mr Forsyth has a curiously thin and emollient voice, and both sides soon found that they could bully him.

At first there were more interventions from backbenchers than there was speech. He kept saying plaintively that he could not accept more interruptions.

Then someone else would stand up, give him a meaningful look, and down he would sit, as meek and contrite as a chastised schoolboy.

Mr Forsyth roared at him and he seemed to have no reply. Then John Townend (C, Bridlington) said, with apparent kindness, that Mr Forsyth was not to blame for the betrayal of British fishermen by Sir Edward Heath.

Sir Edward sat immobile, like an overfished cod. This pose was misleading. Mr Forsyth tried desperately to establish a note of sonorous dignity. He announced gravely that "fish themselves do not recognise international boundaries."

The Labour yobboes jeered. He kept on trying. "I am sure that my honourable friends do not want the United Kingdom to act in breach of treaty obligations entered into with the approval of this House."

"Why not?" shouted the Eur-phobes.

"Oh yes, they do!" yelled the Labour benches, and someone got in a quick "Oh no, we don't" to keep the panto spirit bubbling.

Soon Sir Edward levered himself up and declared that by making his "abusive remarks", Mr Townend had "degraded himself". (How wonderful to have such self-esteem that you can assume any criticism of you degrades the critic.)

Sir Edward declared that he felt close to the fishermen. "I had 15 years of ocean racing," he said, to laughter.

Perhaps he would have won a few more races if Morning Cloud hadn't been trailing for mackerel at the time.

Fuzzy video of Rabin's murder shows 'crude moment of history'



Derek Brown in Tel Aviv

LAST night, hours after Yigal Amir went on trial for assassinating Yitzhak Rabin, Israeli television showed harrowing footage of how the confessed killer lurked in wait for the prime minister on the evening of November 4, walked up to him, and shot him twice in the back.

The film, aired on the commercial station, Channel Two, was, by any journalistic standard, a giant coup — a dreadful, gut-wrenching, abominable scoop. Channel Two and the mass circulation Israeli daily Yediot Ahronoth, together paid \$350,000 for the eight-minute film shot by amateur cameraman Ronni Kempler.

The video was wobbly and fuzzy, a crude record of a crude moment of history. In the crucial final minutes, Amir enters the frame again and again, with the camera focusing uncertainly on the area at the bottom of the steps from the platform where Mr Rabin had, minutes before, addressed a huge peace rally.

The tape emphasises the chaos of the scene, with excited crowds pressing around and into the supposedly secure area to greet the notables from the platform.

As each of them descended the steps, they passed within a few yards of Amir, casually waiting among a gaggle of police. When the camera first picks him up, he is sitting on a large plant pot, then he stands and ambles a few feet, before standing with his arms folded, staring ahead.

Shimon Peres, the then foreign minister and probably the man most hated by right-wing extremists like Amir, is seen bounding down the steps and straight towards the densest part of the crowd; the consummate politician doing his thing. He passes close to Amir twice, who has told the court that he intended to kill both Rabin and Mr Peres.

Mercifully for Mr Peres, now prime minister, he left minutes before Rabin and was thus spared.

The final awful moments of the tape show Rabin walking purposefully, flanked by security men. As he passes the



Front page still of the video in the daily Yediot Ahronoth shows Rabin being shot by Amir (top left)

dim outlines of Amir, there is a blurred movement behind Rabin's boldly-outlined tall white-haired figure. Then the defining moment: a white muzzle flash inches behind the densest part of the crowd; the consummate politician doing his thing. He passes close to Amir twice, who has told the court that he intended to kill both Rabin and Mr Peres.

The hearing lasted 37 minutes, occupied by a formal reading of the murder and conspiracy indictment, and pleas by defence counsel for more time to prepare their case. Amir did not plead.

Judge Edmond Levy, one of three justices in the no jury court, dismissed the lawyers' contention that their client's trial could be prejudiced by last night's broadcast, and by the continuing state inquiry into the assassination.

He readily agreed with their request for a delay in the law setting January 23 for the resumption of the trial.

In court yesterday, Eitan Haber, one of Rabin's closest associates, sat on a bench

near the front. Before the hearing, Amir's father asked Mr Haber for forgiveness. When he declined, Amir's mother was heard to chide her husband: "Leave him [Mr Haber] alone, he's a monster."

After the assassination Mrs Amir went on television to plead with the nation and with Mrs Rabin for forgiveness. Now she backs her boy.

Nothing more sadly underlines the bitter division of Israeli society which, more than any security lapses, cost the last prime minister his life.

Mr Esposito said yesterday that Mr Saffra's purchase would allow the company to "intensify its focus and efforts in extending the vast editorial wealth of the Britannica". It is thought Mr Saffra will leave the current management unchanged, for the time being at least.

Meanwhile, information on the Britannica's new owner was near-impossible to find. In New York, Edmond Saffra's spokesman, Robert Siegfried, told the Associated Press: "This is a family that has shunned publicity."

The aversion to the public eye has become more intense since the 1980s, when Saffra was caught in a war of words with American Express, to whom he had sold his Trade Development Bank. Although he is unconnected financially with his nephew, Edmond Saffra also has interests in Switzerland through his Saffra Republic bank in Geneva.

The university also shut 66 of the company's 91 sales offices and seemed to be moving away from the traditional reliance on door-to-door salesmen.

A late start in making the encyclopaedia available on disc and on the Internet has been blamed for the rage of competitors, such as Microsoft's Encarta disc-opaedia.

These encyclopaedias — costing perhaps \$50, against Britannica's \$1,500 a set, and packed full of pictures and sound — have flourished.

In the summer, Chicago University shook up the boardroom, partly, it is thought, to tackle the "anti-technology" attitude of some of the old guard.

The former head of Britannica's North American operations, Joseph Esposito — a self-styled "computer freak" — was appointed chairman and president.

The university also shut 66 of the company's 91 sales offices and seemed to be moving away from the traditional reliance on door-to-door salesmen.

Mr Esposito said yesterday that Mr Saffra's purchase would allow the company to "intensify its focus and efforts in extending the vast editorial wealth of the Britannica". It is thought Mr Saffra will leave the current management unchanged, for the time being at least.

Meanwhile, information on the Britannica's new owner was near-impossible to find. In New York, Edmond Saffra's spokesman, Robert Siegfried, told the Associated Press: "This is a family that has shunned publicity."

The aversion to the public eye has become more intense since the 1980s, when Saffra was caught in a war of words with American Express, to whom he had sold his Trade Development Bank. Although he is unconnected financially with his nephew, Edmond Saffra also has interests in Switzerland through his Saffra Republic bank in Geneva.

The university also shut 66 of the company's 91 sales offices and seemed to be moving away from the traditional reliance on door-to-door salesmen.

Mr Esposito said yesterday that Mr Saffra's purchase would allow the company to "intensify its focus and efforts in extending the vast editorial wealth of the Britannica". It is thought Mr Saffra will leave the current management unchanged, for the time being at least.

Meanwhile, information on the Britannica's new owner was near-impossible to find. In New York, Edmond Saffra's spokesman, Robert Siegfried, told the Associated Press: "This is a family that has shunned publicity."

The aversion to the public eye has become more intense since the 1980s, when Saffra was caught in a war of words with American Express, to whom he had sold his Trade Development Bank. Although he is unconnected financially with his nephew, Edmond Saffra also has interests in Switzerland through his Saffra Republic bank in Geneva.

The university also shut 66 of the company's 91 sales offices and seemed to be moving away from the traditional reliance on door-to-door salesmen.

'Staggers' could be declared insolvent

Owen Bowcott

THE New Statesman, once the pre-eminent publication of the right, but now burdened with £2 million of debt, is threatening to declare itself insolvent later this week and offer the title for sale.

The decision to place the company in the hands of an administrator was announced yesterday by its majority shareholder, the socialist millionaire and former DIY chain store proprietor Philip Jeffrey.

A number of other groups are believed to be assembling financial backing in the hope of buying Mr Jeffrey out. If no acceptable bidders come forward, he may make another offer for the title.

The latest development in the contest to buy the magazine follows a rebuff last week by the New Statesman's trustees to Mr Jeffrey's proposals to remove editorial safeguards while restructuring its precarious finances.

The trustees, otherwise known as E shareholders, are taking legal advice to see what powers they have to preserve the magazine and prevent the company being disposed of against their wishes.

Mr Jeffrey, speaking from his Buckinghamshire home, said yesterday: "The shareholders cannot continue trading while insolvent without making themselves liable for debts. The law provides for a company to go into administration which enables it to continue trading."

"My offer to the shareholders is now rejected and the administrator will have to take the best offer available." The New Statesman will continue publishing in the meantime, he insisted.

Asked about whether he was inclined to continue his involvement, he said: "This is a natural break. Life is short and the New Statesman can prove to be an awful lot of hassle for such a small outfit."

"I wouldn't be unhappy at being released from the board. I originally set myself up to be midwife to the financial reconstruction. I will think about making an offer. Other people may be interested."

Pat Coyne, another director and shareholder, dismissed suggestions Mr Jeffrey was backing out of the magazine. An application would be made later this week, he said, for an administrator to be appointed. "I would be surprised if Mr Jeffrey doesn't make another bid."

Mr Jeffrey's initial offer, rejected by the trustees, valued the business at £375,000. Its circulation currently stands at 20,000 copies a week.

Labour MP Margaret Hodge, one of the E shareholders, last night said she and her fellow trustees had not been notified before the company was put into the hands of an administrator.

First night

Plump, polite and simply likeable

Caroline Sullivan

Simply Red

Wembley Arena

SINCE the release of the Stars album in 1991, Simply Red have become a byword for luxury adult pop. Seeing them live is like finding an expensive handbag under the Christmas tree — you appreciate the quality, but it's hard to get excited. At the first of three warm-ups for next month's British tour, Simply Red were that bag.

Having said that, it was impossible not to feel a touch of awe at last night's show. Mr Simply Red, Mick Hucknall, is the most improbable sex-hunk since Captain Sensible, but obviously no one has ever told him so. Fuzzy ginger hair in a rock 'n' roll ponytail, and a paunch encased in crushed velvet, he shimmied and shook like one of those That He frequently came to the edge of the stage, then plonked coyly away. Even more improbably, every girl responded with squeals of pleasure. Talk about the power of positive thinking.

But Hucknall not only acted as if he were beautiful, he sang that way, and there is the secret of his group's success (Stars, selling 5 million, is one of the biggest British albums of the decade). His clear, sweet voice renders understated funk — you'd have to be misanthropic not to like at least a little.

So many people have liked Simply Red at least a little that they've had 20 hits, and they played most of them here. (Note: "Simply Red" denotes

Hucknall plus a transient cast of hired hands of whom only the keyboardist, Fritz McIntyre, guitarist Heitor and saxophonist Ian Kirkham have gone the distance.)

The backing band, situated at one end of a curving stage built out into the crowd like a catwalk ("Do you like it? I feel like I'm getting a little closer to you," Mick said) were much more, well, awake than I'd expected. Between the seven of them, including a magnificently Afro-haired backing singer, they shook some life into 10 years' worth of repertoire. For instance, A New Flame, pumped up with electric piano and gurgling bass, was a hot little moment: when the drummer banged the snare, so was Thrill Me.

All 90-odd numbers verged on funkiness — as Wilson Pickett might understand it. During a strobe-lit version of Remembering the First Time, the singer let down his hair — literally.

However, it all stayed just this side of politeness. The reason was Hucknall himself, in whose frantic cavorting was the shadow of the plump adolescent. Moreover, much as he might pray to wake up black tomorrow, he can't escape the fact he's a white Mancunian living in considerable splendour in Italy. These handicaps keep him from letting go. When he tries, as he did during, say, a reggae-style number from the current album, Life, it's embarrassing. Except for Hucknall, who flapped his arms and sounded as un-Jamaican as possible.

Put it this way. Simply Red justify the £25 ticket price, but Wilson Pickett won't need to visit the job centre just yet.

Relatives of murder victims 'suffer with minimal support'

Chris Millill

Medical Correspondent

RELATIVES of murder victims suffer long-term mental distress, psychologists said yesterday.

"They form a clinically traumatised group, who receive minimal recognition or professional help following the event," say researchers

Sharon Logan and Richard Kemp. They interviewed 19 relatives of people murdered who all suffered symptoms comparable to those of combat veterans.

The researchers' findings contrast with previous studies which had suggested that relatives got over symptoms such as intrusive thoughts, nightmares and flashbacks quite quickly.

US recluse saves Britannica

\$400m lifeline for 'crown jewel' of the world's reference books

Dan Atkinson

THE world's best-known work of reference, Encyclopaedia Britannica, has been sold to a scion of one of America's most powerful banking families for as much as \$400 million (£266.6 million).

Jacob Saffra, the new owner who is based in Switzerland, described it as representing "the crown jewel of accumulated knowledge".

Britannica, reeling from plunging sales caused by competition from super-cheap reference works on computer disc, has had its debts written by the University of Chicago which, since the 1940s, has been the sole beneficiary of the book's earnings.

US sales are thought to have halved in the past five years.

Founded in Scotland in 1768, the Britannica's contributors have included Sir Wal-

ter Scott, Albert Einstein, Sigmund Freud and William Hazlitt. Alfred Hitchcock was invited to write the section on film production and its famous Scholar's Edition — the ninth edition, of 1975-89 — used 1,100 writers.

This was to be the last Britannica Britannica: ownership crossed the Atlantic at the turn of the century and publication followed in 1921.

Now the 27-year-old encyclopaedia is the property of a man whose reticence is notable even in a family renowned for its aversion to publicity.

Mr Saffra's uncle, Edmond Saffra, is based in New York and heads a \$30 billion banking empire including his Republic Bank. The Saffra family, Lebanese Jewish by origin, have been bankers and traders from the time of the Ottoman empire and have based themselves in Italy, Brazil and Beirut.

Mr Saffra's uncle, Edmond Saffra, is based in New York and heads a \$30 billion banking empire including his Republic Bank. The Saffra family, Lebanese Jewish by origin, have been bankers and traders from the time of the Ottoman empire and have based themselves in Italy, Brazil and Beirut.

Mr Saffra's uncle, Edmond Saffra, is based in New York and heads a \$30 billion banking empire including his Republic Bank. The Saffra family, Lebanese Jewish by origin, have been bankers and traders from the time of the Ottoman empire and have based themselves in Italy, Brazil and Beirut.

Mr Saffra's uncle, Edmond Saffra, is based in New York and heads a \$30 billion banking empire including his Republic Bank. The Saffra family, Lebanese Jewish by origin, have been bankers and traders from the time of the Ottoman empire and have based themselves in Italy, Brazil and Beirut.

US recluse saves Britannica

\$400m lifeline for 'crown jewel' of the world's reference books

Dan Atkinson

THE world's best-known work of reference, Encyclopaedia Britannica, has been sold to a scion of one of America's most powerful banking families for as much as \$400 million (£266.6 million).

Jacob Saffra, the new owner who is based in Switzerland, described it as representing "the crown jewel of accumulated knowledge".

Britannica, reeling from plunging sales caused by competition from super-cheap reference works on computer disc, has had its debts written by the University of Chicago which, since the 1940s, has been the sole beneficiary of the book's earnings.

US sales are thought to have halved in the past five years.

Founded in Scotland in 1768, the Britannica's contributors have included Sir Wal-

ter Scott, Albert Einstein, Sigmund Freud and William Hazlitt. Alfred Hitchcock was invited to write the section on film production and its famous Scholar's Edition — the ninth edition, of 1975-89 — used 1,100 writers.

This was to be the last Britannica Britannica: ownership crossed the Atlantic at the turn of the century and publication followed in 1921.

Now the 27-year-old encyclopaedia is the property of a man whose reticence is notable even in a family renowned for its aversion to publicity.

Mr Saffra's uncle, Edmond Saffra, is based in New York and heads a \$30 billion banking empire including his Republic Bank. The Saffra family, Lebanese Jewish by origin, have been bankers and traders from the time of the Ottoman empire and have based themselves in Italy, Brazil and Beirut.

Mr Saffra's uncle, Edmond Saffra, is based in New York and heads a \$30 billion banking empire including his Republic Bank. The Saffra family, Lebanese Jewish by origin, have been bankers and traders from the time of the Ottoman empire and have based themselves in Italy, Brazil and Beirut.

Mr Saffra's uncle, Edmond Saffra, is based in New York and heads a \$30 billion banking empire including his Republic Bank. The Saffra family, Lebanese Jewish by origin, have been bankers and traders from the time of the Ottoman empire and have based themselves in Italy, Brazil and Beirut.

Mr Saffra's uncle, Edmond Saffra, is based in New York and heads a \$30 billion banking empire including his Republic Bank. The Saffra family, Lebanese Jewish by origin, have been bankers and traders from the time of the Ottoman empire and have based themselves in Italy, Brazil and Beirut.

Stressed at the wheel? Pull over for a spell on the therapist's couch

Edward Pilkington

IT IS Christmas Eve and as you follow your way up the M1 amid driving snow you are being hassled by the driver behind. Your anger is rising, what do you do?

Do you (1) force the other driver on to the hard shoulder, head-but him, then hit him with a steering wheel lock, as a man on the M25 did earlier this year? Or (2) launch a tear gas attack on the other vehicle, like the driver on the M4 now serving a two and a half year jail term? Or (3) pull into the

nearest service station and talk the problem over with a friendly psychologist?

The third solution is the correct answer, according to the RAC. It will be testing a new service this week to profile motorists on the verge of "road rage" with the chance to vent their frustrations in non-violent ways.

The organisation will provide trained counsellors at selected services to help drivers cope with this most stressful of motoring periods.

The scheme's mastermind, Conrad King, a psychologist from Glasgow who specialises in the impact of machines on

human behaviour, heads a small team. He expects drivers to spend between 10 and 20 minutes in roadside therapy.

"I will ask them to identify what is getting to them and express their feelings of anger," he said. Did that mean allowing motorists to beat the proverbial number two out of a punch-bag, or worse, the psychologist himself? "I would be reluctant to go into major physical work," Mr King replied.

The scheme, which will be run at South Mimms services on the M25 today, and tomorrow at service stations at

Fleet on the M3 and Birchington on the M1, is likely to attract considerable attention from travellers. But some commentators were bemused about how adding 20 minutes to the drive time would reduce stress.

"I'm speechless," said Brian Sewell, the art critic who writes on motoring for the London Evening Standard. "The drivers who need to be brought under control are not the kind of people who will seek out a psychologist in a comfy chair — they prefer the therapy of getting out of the car and thumping someone."

In his last few years Roy Castle gave everything. This Christmas all we're asking for is a little.

Right up until the end, Roy Castle courageously campaigned to raise money for the world's first lung cancer research centre. Now we need your help to continue the great work Roy started.



Please tick box: £2.50 ☐ £5.00 ☐ £10.00 ☐ £20.00 ☐ Other £

I enclose a cheque made payable to The Roy Castle Cause For Hope Foundation. Please send to 100 Old Hall Street, Liverpool, L3 9TA.

OR, please debit my credit card or telephone 0151 227 3336

Card type, please tick: ☐ Visa ☐ Access ☐ Mastercard

Card No:

Expiry date:

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Registered charity no. 104054

0151 227 3336

سكيا من الامم



Jails' chief orders governors to cut costs by 15 per cent to bridge the gap with 'value for money' private sector

'You're never let out of your cell. For 21, 22 hours a day, you're locked away, four women to a cell'

'They treat you like animals. The security is way too tight. You can be pressing the emergency bell for an hour before anyone comes'

'There's a lot of drugs passing through. There's a lot of girls off their heads. It's obvious but nothing's done about it'



Baled out... Extra resources are being provided to improve Holloway prison, after inspectors were appalled by its conditions. PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SILLITOE

Breeding ground for cockroaches, tension and drugs

Sally Weale talks to ex-Holloway inmates about a claustrophobic regime, with long days broken up by brief outings for meals

AT THE foot of the walls inside Holloway prison, there are piles of rubbish hurled from the windows of cells where inmates languish for anything up to 23 hours a day. It is a putrid mixture of food, smashed plates, faeces, and tampons, providing an ideal breeding

ground for cockroaches and vermin. At night, rats scavenge among the debris. It's supposed to be cleared daily, but because of budget cuts and staff shortages, more often than not it is allowed to fester. Jane, a first-time offender, spent four weeks of her six-month sentence for

fraud in Holloway, leaving in October. She described a claustrophobic regime, with long, boring days broken up by brief outings for meals.

Even those excursions were curtailed if staffing levels were low. Food was then posted through a hatch in the door, the left-overs hurled out of the window, along with the plate, by some of the more difficult inmates.

From about 4pm inmates would be locked away until 7am the next morning. Association periods, when

cells are unlocked to allow inmates to socialise, were invariably cancelled because of staff shortages.

"You're never let out of your cell. For 21, 22 hours a day, you're locked away, four women to a cell. They were even putting five in some cells," said Jane.

"Whenever we were let out, there would be a fight straight away, because everyone was so frustrated being locked up all the time. I saw two assaults on officers while I was there."

"The whole building is

just rotting away. I was on the bottom floor and you could hear the rats outside. There was rubbish all over the place, all round the courtyard. The smell, it was horrific. I saw them clean it once the whole time I was there."

The time she spent at East Sutton Park open prison at Maidstone, Kent, was "brilliant" compared with Holloway. "At least we were treated like human beings there. At Holloway they treat you like animals."

"The security is way too tight. I asked to see the nurse and the officer just told me to 'shut up'. You can be pressing the emergency bell for an hour before anyone comes."

"I used to walk around the wing and see girls who had slashed their wrists, just to get attention."

Cathi, 32, was on remand in Holloway for two months during the summer on a charge of supplying drugs. "It's a very tense place. You're banged up most of the time."

"There's a lot of drugs passing through. There's a lot of girls off their heads. It's obvious but nothing's done about it."

"There are too many women and not enough

staff. I thought we were going to have riots. People are being driven to desperation through loneliness and sheer neglect."

Emma Humphreys, whose murder conviction was quashed by the Court of Appeal in July after serving 10 years, also complained of regularly being locked up for 23 out of 24 hours when in Holloway.

Cases of self-abuse were often ignored by officers. "We were treated very badly. Whenever we were ill, we were often refused visits to the doctor or refused medication."

"We were not treated as human beings and anyone who thinks that being in prison is like a holiday camp would only need to spend one day in Holloway to see how ludicrous a suggestion that is."

It emerged yesterday that many of the concerns raised last week by Sir David Ramsbotham, the new Chief Inspector of Prisons, had been conveyed to the Home Office months ago by the Board of Visitors at Holloway.

Leader comment and letters, page 5; Holloway, the inside story, G2, page 4

Warning as prisons told to slash spending

Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

THIS new head of the Prison Service has told governors that they must cut costs by 15 per cent over the next three years in order to close the gap with Britain's "value for money" private prisons.

The disclosure comes as Richard Tilt, the acting director general of the Prison Service, acknowledged yesterday that there were likely to be other prisons which, like Holloway, have such appalling conditions that they will have to be baled out.

Mr Tilt privately told his senior managers a fortnight ago that the new prisons cost-cutting programme would mean that "regimes are likely to be affected".

A horrified official inspection team walked out of Holloway — Britain's biggest jail for women — last week because they were so appalled by conditions there. Their complaints included overzealous security, prisoners being locked up for 23 hours a day, and very dirty conditions.

Mr Tilt said yesterday the decision by the new Chief Inspector of Prisons, General Sir David Ramsbotham, to pull his team out of Holloway before finishing their inspection had convinced him "to move a little quicker" in drafting in extra staff and resources for the women's prison.

When asked yesterday if there were more Holloways where conditions were so bad that they also needed to be baled out, Mr Tilt replied:

"We have a fast growing prison population. From time to time there are places that clearly get into trouble and it is our job to spot them as early as possible and take remedial action but it is a difficult balancing job."

Earlier this month he told a closed prison service briefing conference that the budget settlement for the service meant halving the capital programme and cutting running costs by 15 per cent over the next three years.

According to the text of Mr Tilt's speech seen by the Guardian he told governors: "We need to look at what the

private sector is doing: the evidence so far suggests that private sector establishments are able to achieve similar levels of service for significantly less cost."

"That has been a critical component in ministers taking the view that the service can achieve further reductions in its costs."

The governors were told that Britain's first private jail, Wolds prison in Yorkshire, which is run by Group 4, was 40 per cent cheaper to run than a state prison. On average private jails were 15 to 25 per cent cheaper.

"Although there is room for debate on the finer detail of any comparison between public and private sector establishments, the plain fact is that the private sector does generally provide better value for money than comparable public sector establishments."

"We cannot ignore that gap, and need to work at closing it," Mr Tilt told his senior managers.

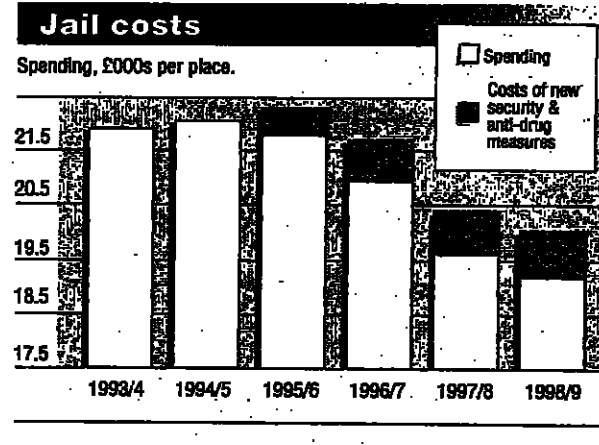
Initially the cost reductions will be financed through staff redeployment, a staff pay and regrading exercise, and by sharing facilities with nearby jails.

But Mr Tilt added: "We have to recognise that regimes are likely to be affected; we need to ensure, however, that with the resources we have we continue to provide balanced regimes."

He said accusations that the Prison Service had indulged in "an orgy of security" since the breakouts at Whitemoor and Parkhurst prisons were unjustified.

The new chairman of the Prison Governors Association, Chris Scott, said it was unacceptable that insufficient funding would mean governors having to choose between returning to poor conditions, where prisoners spend most of their time locked up, or reducing staffing levels to such an extent that the control of their prisons would be compromised.

Harry Fletcher, of the National Association of Probation Officers, said that Mr Tilt's comparison with private prisons was a false one, as wages paid to the less experienced staff were lower in the private sector.



MPs seek life sentence change

Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

THE Home Secretary should lose his role in deciding whether convicted murderers such as Myra Hindley are ever released from prison, a select committee of MPs said yesterday.

But the Commons home affairs committee stopped short of backing reformers' demands for the abolition of the mandatory life sentence for murder.

Instead the MPs say the secrecy surrounding the minimum term set by the trial judge and the Lord Chief Justice should be ended, and the "tariff" that the prisoner must serve declared in open court. They also recommend that the defence and the At-

torney General both have the right to appeal against the recommended minimum sentence length.

The MPs say they believe the Home Secretary should be removed from the process of deciding how long convicted murderers should stay in prison, because while he might be in a position to respond to "public will" in such cases, "public opinion is not necessarily the surest guide in making such a decision."

The committee says it intends to issue a further report detailing an alternative system without the Home Secretary being involved.

Pressure for the abolition of the mandatory life sentence was fuelled by a recent Prison Reform Trust report in which the former Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, argued that a compulsory sentence should

not cover every type of murder from a doctor's mercy killing to a terrorist blowing up an airliner.

The MPs say their decision to support retention of the mandatory life sentence reflects concern for public safety.

Home Secretary Michael Howard's evidence to the MPs inquiry said the average length of time served by mandatory life sentence prisoners had risen to 14.5 years. There was a deterrent effect in that certain types of murder carried a minimum "tariff" of 20 years, and that in the worst cases life imprisonment meant natural life.

The Penal Affairs Consortium, representing 27 prison organisations, welcomed the decision to support removing the role of the Home Secretary from the process.

"These procedures can deprive individuals of their liberty for many years, and in some cases for the rest of the prisoner's life," said Paul Cavallone, who chairs the consortium. "It is utterly wrong for such sombre decisions to be made by politicians rather than judges, and by an entirely non-judicial process with no right of appeal. This process contravenes every principle of natural justice."

Mr Howard has tried to defuse judges' criticism of his "get tough" sentencing plans by saying that none of his proposals would involve any increase in the powers of the Home Secretary.

In an article in the latest Law Society's Gazette he maintains: "I am fulfilling my responsibilities to the public, not adding to my role in the sentencing process."

Babe, Tinseltown's latest crackling, brings lean times to pig traders

Martin Wainwright

FOR the lamb trade, retribution came from an obscure Russian power station; for beef, it came with mad cows.

Now pork, the third of Britain's trio of staple meats, is facing a threat from an equally unexpected direction: the studios of Hollywood and their Christmas blockbuster, Babe the Gallant Pig.

"Everyone in the trade's talking about it," said Yorkshire pig magnate Ian Moulds, with a shudder at Tinseltown's tale of a noble, talking and — worst of all —

abattoir-avoiding porker. "It's only rumour, but apparently pork consumption in America has gone right down."

Indeed it has, according to a spokesman at the Meat and Livestock Commission, who is planning to take a package of bacon sandwiches, as well as his children, when he goes to see the film. "I shall sit there and munch them all the way through it, meanwhile praying that the British aren't as daft as the Americans," he said.

"Because, yes, there has been a drop in pork sales over there. We don't have exact data, but the meat trade has

definitely been affected."

The story of Babe — "not the greatest film in the world, but it upends all expectations," said Derek Malcolm in the Guardian — plays on the piglet's constant threat from humane slotters. It also strikes echoes with earlier pro-pig children's literature in America, especially E. B. White's Charlotte's Web.

That long-lasting classic, in which a talking spider saves another pig by writing messages in web-silk, suggests that the worst fears of the man from the Meat and Livestock Commission may be borne out.

"A silly film about a pig in a wig... what will we have next? Flying pigs?" he said.

The pig trade is meanwhile preparing a robust defence against Babeism, based on the healthy effects of sausage, pork crackling and spare ribs. Mr Moulds, whose own version of Babe have the free run of a North Yorkshire forest (and produces 4,000 Babelets a year from 350 sows), said: "People with full stomachs tend to forget where humanity would be if we hadn't started eating meat. Apart from all the meat we'd be we'd still be foraging round for berries, like them."

£160m home loans rip-off is revealed
Building societies overcharge

Sunday Times 3.12.95. From an article by Paul Malt and Rupert Stothard

Just what the building societies need. Another reason to transfer to Direct Line.

There are plenty of reasons to move your mortgage to Direct Line. Save over £40* a month. No legal fees. A free valuation. And a saving of 20% on your existing buildings insurance. (If you call before 31/1/1996.) But now it's been revealed that the Building Societies below (among others) give you yet another reason.

Because they wait until the end of the year to calculate your interest payments, whereas we calculate them at the end of every month. Which means that in the long term you pay less interest with a Direct Line mortgage. If you're interested in hearing just how much you could save, we're waiting for your call.

Building Society	APR	Monthly Repayment	Monthly saving	Total Payable
HULLFAX	6.5%	£215.52	£22.32	£179,562
WIDENWICH	6.5%	£215.52	£24.68	£179,680
NATIONWIDE	7.0%	£227.00	£41.76	£179,778
DIRECT LINE	5.0%	£193.20		£159,888

0181 649 9099 LONDON
0161 831 9099 MANCHESTER
0141 221 9099 GLASGOW

CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday. Please quote ref. GA32

Direct Line Financial Services Limited, 100 Victoria Street, London EC6P 6EF. Direct Line and the red telephone icon are the trademarks of Direct Line Insurance plc and are used under licence. Direct Line mortgage is a service provided by Direct Line Financial Services Limited. The mortgage is subject to credit checks and is offered on a non-recourse basis. The mortgage is not a loan and is not subject to the same regulations as a loan. The mortgage is not a loan and is not subject to the same regulations as a loan. The mortgage is not a loan and is not subject to the same regulations as a loan.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

For your security all telephone calls will be recorded and the recording kept secure.

*This impartial news report from The Sunday Times of 3.12.95 was written for the readers of the newspaper and is not intended to be an endorsement of any product mentioned in the article or this advertisement.

صلى الله عليه وسلم

Violent burglar calling himself 'Lucifer' convicted after police surveillance and help from informer

Ruthless robber preyed on wealthy

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

A VIOLENT and prolific burglar who called himself "Lucifer" was convicted yesterday of a series of robberies. His arrest was the result of a complex police operation involving lengthy surveillance and an informer who pretended to have a broken arm so he did not need to take part in the break-ins.

Keith Bramble, aged 36, of no fixed abode, was convicted at Middlesex Guildhall crown court in central London of three robberies in November and December last year. He was also found guilty of assaulting a police officer following a six week trial. He will be sentenced today.

Bramble claimed he was protected by Satan during his brutal robberies. He wore a "highwayman's mask" and black clothes on his raids and preferred to work on stormy nights because of the cover it gave him. His main targets were the very wealthy.

Anthony Gabbidon, aged 31, of Tottenham, north London, who had admitted one robbery, was convicted of wounding a police officer with intent.

Martyn Heslop, prosecuting, told the court Bramble carried out the robberies with great ruthlessness.

One of Bramble's former confederates, David Richards, agreed to help his capture and pretended he had a broken arm and could not take part in the break-ins. Under Scotland Yard guidelines for informers, they are not allowed to take part in crimes.

Richards wore a plaster cast to convince Bramble. He drove him around and even persuaded him to move into his flat so he could track his movements. He passed this information on to the police.

In November last year, Bramble broke into a house in Tottenham, north London. Sisters Linda and Wenda Ashley were looking after their children when he entered, locked them in a bathroom and stole £10,000 worth of jewellery and cash.

A few days later Bramble broke into a house near Highgate Wood, north London.

Deborah Finkler, a lawyer, was reading a story to her two-year-old son when he confronted her. When her partner, solicitor Alan Murray-Jones, who was holding their seven-month-old daughter, told their nanny to phone police, Bramble said: "Don't be stupid. You would not want the children hurt, would you?" Mr Murray-Jones and the baby were pushed to the ground. Bramble stole his watch and other valuables.

At a third break-in in Finchley, north London, Bramble took Gabbidon as an accomplice. William Angel, a company director, his wife Frances, and her brother, Bernard Berman, aged 81, who has Alzheimer's Disease, were dining when Bramble entered. He kicked Dr Berman and stole cash and jewellery. However, the police were waiting outside following help from Richards.

Bramble claimed the police had set him up. The conviction follows a police operation on burglaries which led to 2,300 arrests on December 5.



Prolific... Keith Bramble, who claimed he was protected by Satan during his brutal robberies, was duped by a former accomplice who pretended to have a broken arm

Lottery unable to meet charity pleas for cash

Andrew Cuff
Media Correspondent

THE National Lottery Charities Board is turning away deserving causes because it does not have enough cash to go round.

Fewer than one in 10 applications to the board for lottery funding have been successful — and demand from charities is increasing, the board said yesterday.

More than 1,200 charities and voluntary organisations received £20 million in the third tranche of grants aimed at poverty and low income groups.

Janet Paraskeva, the board's director for England, said: "Our only regret is that there is not more cash. We could spend 10 times as much as on worthwhile charity causes."

The board's second grants programme is to focus on groups working with young people aged between 11 and 25, but applications already logged are running 20 per cent above those for the first series of handouts.

The board was bracing itself for renewed criticism that its awards favoured refugee groups and politically correct organisations, but Ms Paraskeva said: "It is a pretty broad range of grants. There is something for everyone. We have funded black groups and refugee groups, and so we should — we are reflecting need and they are worthwhile projects."

The largest chunk of yesterday's cash went to English charities, with 1,045 groups receiving £68.8 million. Eighty-eight Northern Ireland charities received grants totalling £3.8 million. Since October the board has

awarded £160 million in grants to 2,460 organisations. The board said grants were allocated to England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland on the basis of population figures with a weighting for the level of deprivation. Since October in England 1,080 groups have received £117 million, in Wales 185 have received £9.8 million, in Scotland 223 have received £17.6 million and in Northern Ireland 162 have received £8.4 million.

The largest beneficiary of yesterday's pre-Christmas largesse was the St Chad's Community project, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear, awarded £682,000 to build and staff a family resource centre.

Crisis received £485,827 to develop a nationwide network of emergency accommodation for homeless people.

The smallest grant was £610 for the South Petherwin Preschool, Cornwall.

A spokeswoman for the National Council for Voluntary Organisations said it was pleased a wide range of groups had benefited, but remained concerned about the dip in fund-raising income, estimated at £91 million for the first year of the lottery. "The NCVO believes there is a strong case for the Government to look at ways of increasing the 5.6 per cent share available to the National Lottery Charities Board."

The Government has already set up a 2½-year research project to monitor the impact of the lottery on charity income.

Future programmes for the board in 1996/97 include awards to UK charities abroad and groups improving people's living environment and those with community involvement.

FBI brings Britons down to earth

Gary Young and Jonathan Freedland in Washington

THE British have a bad reputation for their behaviour abroad. Usually they wait until they get there before getting into trouble, but the 18 passengers on the Northwest Airlines flight at midday from Gatwick to Los Angeles, via Minneapolis, could not stand the suspense.

Yesterday four were refused entry to the US after a drunken food fight on the plane. One, Michael Purcell, aged 25, was arrested for allegedly trying to punch a flight attendant, one was still sobering up in custody last night and the remaining 13 were expected to arrive back in England today after "voluntarily" leaving the US.

The trouble started when older members of the group, ranging in age from about four to 65, found they were only allowed a limited amount to drink on the plane. The children were sent to sleep in the first-class cabin and the adults were told to drink responsibly. When that failed they started shouting, swearing and throwing food, Northwest said.

When a flight attendant tried to restrain them, one of them is said to have grabbed her and bruised her arm. Mr Purcell allegedly threw a punch at a different attendant.

The pilot rang the federal authorities in Minneapolis and asked them to meet the flight and take the people off.

FBI officials took all 18 people away for questioning and charged Mr Purcell with interfering with the crew.

A spokesman from the US Immigration and Naturalisation Service in Minneapolis said: "There was fighting, drinking and theft as well as physical and verbal abuse."

Parents of asthma children lose fight for ban on cars

Angella Johnson

PARENTS whose children suffer from asthma yesterday failed in their High Court attempt to ban traffic from a busy main road during periods of high air pollution.

They reacted angrily when the judge suggested a possible solution was to move from Greenwich, south London.

Peter Anderson, whose daughter Mary, aged three, was diagnosed as an asthma sufferer last spring, walked out of court as Mr Justice Macpherson rejected an application for judicial review.

Mr Anderson, aged 41, said he had been incensed by the judge's comments. "It is ludicrous to suggest children should move out of the area."

Concern about the impact of traffic on their children's health led the parents to challenge Greenwich council's refusal in June to establish a permanent or experimental traffic restriction or closure scheme on Trafalgar Road, which is close to their homes. Mr Anderson and six other

parents whose children have asthma claimed the council had power to act under the 1984 Road Traffic Regulation Act. "There are so many children suffering in our area with asthma. I am sure many adults are suffering as well because the traffic is causing pollution. This judge has put a blanket over the evidence," said Mr Anderson.

Mr Justice Macpherson argued that, although in "extreme circumstances" the council could restrict or prohibit traffic from roads, "it cannot have been intended that the power extends to circumstances such as this".

If the council complied with the parents' wishes it would lead to the "absurd result" that Trafalgar Road traffic would have to be diverted to another road, he added.

The judge said the court was not unsympathetic to children with asthma, but possibly the only remedy was to remove them from the area.

The solicitor representing the families said an appeal was likely.

FAMILY GETS PERFECT PC PACKAGE FROM ESCOM

MAN FROM ESCOM EXPLAINS HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT SYSTEM



The Man from ESCOM has decided to give it to you straight, and take all the confusion out of choosing and buying a PC that's exactly right for your family's needs.

"You'd be surprised just how little people know about all this modern technology" said the PC troubleshooter. "One of my customers didn't even know that PC stood for Personal Computer. But who could blame him when most PC retailers take for granted that their customers know as much as them. Except for ESCOM that is. Our helpful, friendly staff will guide and advise you

every step of the way. They're not just interested in making a sale, they're here to make sure you don't end up with a system that will be obsolete in the future, or is over or under powered for your needs."

So, if you're a family whose kids need a PC that can educate and entertain while you take care of business, check out ESCOM's amazing deal on the COMMODORE multimedia system below.



THE COMPLETE FAMILY MULTIMEDIA SYSTEM



Commodore
P60 MINI TOWER

- Intel 60MHz Pentium Processor
- 1Gb (1024Mb) Hard Disk Drive
- RAM = 3.5" Floppy Disk Drive
- Monitor = Mini Tower Case
- Keyboard
- Windows 95
- Quicken 4.0 CD
- Muse
- Hutchinson Encyclopaedia
- Novell Perfect Office
- 12 Months On-site Warranty

£799.00 +VAT £938.83 +VAT

COMMODORE P60 MULTIMEDIA MINI TOWER

SPECIFICATION AS ABOVE BUT WITH

• Quad Speed CD ROM • 16 Bit Sound Card • Speakers

£948.00 +VAT £1113.90 +VAT

HP HEWLETT PACKARD
HP DESKJET 600 WITH DISNEY LION KING PRINT STUDIO PLUS COLOUR KIT

The perfect printer for the home - everything you want and colour when you need it. **WHEN PURCHASED WITH AN ESCOM PC**

£219.00 +VAT £257.33 inc. VAT

NORMAL PRINTER DEAL PRICE £229.00 +VAT £268.08 inc. VAT



OVER 200 STORES NATIONWIDE
FOR DETAILS OF YOUR NEAREST STORE PHONE
0990 100888

OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 10am-6pm THURSDAY 10am-6pm
SATURDAY 10am-5.30pm SUNDAY 10am-4.00pm
OFFICE WORLD OPENING HOURS
MONDAY-FRIDAY 8.30am-5.00pm
SATURDAY 8.30am-5.00pm SUNDAY 10am-4.30pm

Apple, IBM, Microsoft, and other names are trademarks of their respective owners. ESCOM is a registered trademark of ESCOM UK Limited. © 1995 ESCOM UK Limited. All rights reserved.

BUSINESS USERS BUY DIRECT ON 0990 555888

easyware
FROM **ESCOM**

A UNIQUE PACKAGE THAT OFFERS YOU TOP QUALITY HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE PLUS THE KIND OF SERVICE, HELP AND ADVICE THAT MAKES CHOOSING THE RIGHT PC EASY. ALL BACKED BY A FULL SUPPORT SERVICE AND ON-SITE WARRANTIES.

THE EASY WAY TO CHOOSE A PC
ESCOM UK LIMITED 3 RIVERSIDE WAY RIVERSIDE BUSINESS PARK, IRVING KENT, S11 2JL
TEL: 01294 222600 FAX: 01294 222200 Registered in Scotland Reg No. 127416

© 1995 ESCOM UK Limited. All rights reserved. ESCOM is a registered trademark of ESCOM UK Limited. © 1995 ESCOM UK Limited. All rights reserved.

Imran Khan has become a kind of male sporting equivalent of the Princess of Wales: an international charity evangelist who is also a deity of the gossip pages.

Turkish voters torn between East and West

Jonathan Rugman
in Istanbul

UNCERTAINTY in Turkey about whether the country belongs to the Muslim East or the secular West is likely to become all too apparent on Sunday, when a general election is almost certain to expose deep divisions.

The radical Islamic Welfare Party is tipped to finish ahead, possibly leading to the removal of the American-educated prime minister, Tansu Ciller, who is banking on a late surge in her personal popularity after last week's endorsement by the European Parliament of a customs union between Ankara and the European Union.

Opinion poll results are unreliable but analysts agree that the Islamic Welfare Party, led by Necmettin Erbakan, aged 68, will take more than 20 per cent of the vote.

Turkey's two largest conservative-nationalist parties — Mrs Ciller's True Path Party and the Motherland Party led by Mesut Yilmaz — have divided the secular vote, which may mean they cannot defeat Mr Erbakan.

There is little difference in policy between Mrs Ciller and Mr Yilmaz, both pro-European free-marketisers who, if elected, would keep up the war against Kurdish rebels in the south-east and probably introduce an economic austerity programme to combat annual inflation of 71 per cent.

In television debates last week, the leaders were reduced to attacking each other's private fortunes in what Mr Erbakan called a "fight between the blind".

Mr Erbakan has won support from traditionally minded pious Muslims — especially those in poor

areas — many of whom believe that secular politicians are corrupt and have failed to tackle mounting social and economic grievances.

"A great Turkey will be built again," Mr Erbakan told a rally outside one of Istanbul's historic mosques. He said his party "will end Western slavery, God willing, Bosnia, Chechnya and Jerusalem will be liberated. Six billion people will be freed."

If Mr Erbakan wins with his utopian proposals and talk of a "world unity of Islam", he will be asked by Turkey's president, Süleyman Demirel, to form the next government. But the lack of a decisive majority is likely to force him into a coalition.

The nightmare the secular establishment fears is Mr Erbakan winning a landslide victory of 30 per cent — enough for the outspoken Islamist to form a government alone.

As if in anticipation of trouble, Turkey's Supreme Military Council announced last week that it had expelled 50 officers for being linked to Islamist groups.

The army has suspended Turkey's democratic system three times in the past — in 1960, 1971 and 1980 — and may be serving a warning that it will not tolerate changes to the secular constitution.

It is unusual for Turkey to go to the polls in winter, when remote eastern regions are often cut off by snow, but Mrs Ciller was forced to call an early election in October after the coalition she had formed with the social democratic Republican People's Party collapsed.

All mainstream political parties are making similar promises on reducing inflation and ending the Kurdish war, leaving many voters undecided. Only Mr Erbakan's Welfare Party stands as a radical force for change.

Relatives accuse director Oliver Stone of deliberately defaming memory of late president in new work

Stones fly over Nixon film



Stone: 'Attempted to give a fuller understanding'

Elaine Dutka in Los Angeles

THE film director Oliver Stone committed "character assassination" against Richard Nixon in a published version of the screenplay for his latest film, Nixon, the late president's family have charged.

Mr Stone waited until the deaths of Richard and Patricia Nixon to "concoct imaginary scenes" of the 37th president's life that were calculated "solely and maliciously to defame and degrade" their memories in the mind of the American public, the family said in a statement on Monday.

The director, a former Republican and Nixon supporter, responded that he understood any effort to ex-

amine Nixon's life might create distress for the family. But his intent in making the film was neither malicious nor defamatory.

The film, which opens in the United States today, is billed as a "dramatic blend of historical fact, interpretation and conjecture". It is being released by Hollywood Pictures, a division of the Walt Disney Studios. Another Disney unit, Eyepic, published the 563-page, annotated version of the screenplay.

The family's statement, released by the Richard Nixon Library & Birthplace Foundation, also denied that Nixon was responsible for US government plans to assassinate the Cuban leader, Fidel Castro, and that an operation Nixon allegedly created for that purpose was ultimately turned against John F. Ken-

nedy. The charge that Nixon was complicit in the assassination was so "reprehensible it should render wholly illegitimate any text or narrative in which it is contained", they said.

To bolster its charges of bias, the family's statement cited a comment made by Mr Stone in a film magazine earlier this year, about his views during the 1960s and 1970s: "When [student protesters] took over NYU and all the kids trashed the place, when Cambodia was invaded, I thought they were nuts. I said: 'If you want to protest, let's get a sniper scope and do Nixon'."

In a written response, Mr Stone said his intent was to attempt a fuller understanding of Nixon's life and career — "the good and the bad, the triumphs and the tragedies

and the legacy he left his nation and the world".

"Those who see our film... will come away with a more sympathetic view of him, a man who embodies all the contradictions of our country and our century," Mr Stone said.

Though neither the Kennedy nor Johnson families responded to Mr Stone's 1991 film, JFK, a furor arose surrounding certain plot twists. In an attempt to avert that this time, the director documented his research in the published script.

A former Nixon aide, John Ehrlichman, has also criticised the script after reading a pirated copy. "It's made-up stuff and very cruel," Mr Ehrlichman said, countering critics who have called the film one of Mr Stone's most compassionate. — Los Angeles Times



Nixon: Accused of link with Kennedy assassination

Arms sales to Indonesia defended

Reuters in London

THE British government said yesterday it had proved the sale of fighter aircraft to Indonesia after concluding they would probably not be used against opponents of the Jakarta government.

The Trade Minister, Anthony Nelson, said he had authorised the issue of licences to British Aerospace for a contract it signed in 1993 to sell 24 Hawk trainers and ground-attack fighters worth £500 million.

Mr Nelson said in a written parliamentary answer he had given the go-ahead after consulting the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign Office. He said the sale was in line with internationally agreed criteria for arms exports.

"In accordance with government policy, a thorough assessment of the likelihood of these aircraft being used for internal repression in Indonesia or East Timor has been undertaken. This assessment has concluded that it is not likely that these aircraft will be used," he said.

"The Indonesian government has given assurances that these aircraft will not be used for internal security or against civilians in any part of Indonesia or East Timor."

A senior Indonesian air force officer said earlier this year that the fighters would be stationed at Pekanbaru, capital of Riau province in eastern Sumatra, to strengthen air defences. Human rights groups have fiercely criticised Britain for its arms sales to Jakarta.

Mr Nelson said he was making an exception to the government's rule of not disclosing details of export licences because the public interest in this case outweighed the need for confidentiality.

North Korea 'on point of starvation'

Michael Rank

MILLIONS of North Koreans are going hungry and the situation will get worse if the international community does not provide aid quickly, a UN official said yesterday.

Trevor Page, director of the World Food Programme's Pyongyang office, said: "The entire nation does not have enough to eat... It's deteriorating day by day. Malnutrition is developing all over the place."

In a telephone interview from Pyongyang, Mr Page said even in the capital people were going hungry and in the provinces food shortages were catastrophic.

Mr Page said the worst affected were 630,000 people hit by floods that had destroyed the rice harvest last summer, but all 23 million people needed food.

"Nobody has enough to eat, not just the flood victims. For most Koreans, the cupboard is really bare and it's time they had a square meal... Things can only get worse if more aid does not arrive soon," he said.

Mr Page said cold was exacerbating food shortages, with temperatures down to minus 15 degrees C. The crisis was sparked by floods last summer in which 70 people died and which forced North Korea to accept food aid for the first time.

Help might have been expected from China and the Soviet Union, which were North Korea's political allies until recently, but both have since established close relations with Seoul and have shown exasperation with Pyongyang. — Reuters



Demonstrating democrats... Supporters of the National Democratic Coalition rally against Nigeria's military regime in Lagos yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: PETER OBE

Nigerian press defiant in the face of repression

Cindy Shiner in Lagos

THE Nigerian press has again found itself the target of raids and intimidation, with the government warning it will no longer tolerate "irresponsible journalism" that tarnishes the country's image.

Last Thursday the offices of Tell magazine were raided and four staff were detained when they refused to disclose where their editors were hiding. The staff were later released.

On Sunday, security agents confiscated 55,000 copies of Tell, which carried a cover story about the jailed presidential candidate Moshood Abiola.

At the weekend, armed arsonists set a wing of the Guardian newspaper on fire

and attacked vendors outside the building.

Nigeria's information minister, Walter Oforiagor, said on Monday that "deliberate fabrication of information does not do Nigeria any good, as the whole world is using it to paint us black. He warned he "would not tolerate it anymore".

The press in Nigeria has been the only consistent and viable form of opposition to the military government since it began a crackdown against opponents shortly after General Sani Abacha seized power two years ago.

A pro-democracy rally in Lagos yesterday drew only a few hundred vocal demonstrators. More effective has been the constant barrage of criticism of the regime by more than 30 daily newspapers and several magazines.

Commonwealth condemnation stays lukewarm

COMMONWEALTH nations are unlikely to agree on tough action against Nigeria after the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa, with Britain urging fellow members to follow the example of the European Union and impose only limited punitive measures, writes Ian Black.

There are several reasons why the press is still allowed to survive. Some members of the security forces sympathise with the opposition and, occasionally, tip off journalists when a raid is imminent. The threat that unrestricted reporting might pose is confined to the cities. Few people in the countryside can

read, and the government still largely controls the radio and television network.

To publish news critical of the regime, many reporters have resorted to guerrilla journalism. Babafemi Ojudu, who works for The News group, abandoned his apartment nine months ago and has been working in hiding

the ministerial "action group" even abstained in a United Nations vote condemning Lagos.

British officials say the Commonwealth will not be able to go beyond what has been done by the EU. Another route is to refer the question of human rights abuses back to the UN.

ever since. He carries a toothbrush in his briefcase, and regularly strikes where he sleeps at night. His family lives with relatives.

In June, Mr Ojudu was detained at a bus stop and held for 10 days in a small cell with several other inmates who, he said, were instructed to beat him. His newspaper had just

published a story about a man who was robbed and killed in a police station to which he had gone for help.

Four journalists are serving 15-year sentences for their alleged role in the much publicised "coup plot" earlier this year. Among them is Chris Anyanwu, who received two international prizes this year for her reporting.

To keep one step ahead of the security forces, several newspapers and magazines now maintain a series of offices spread throughout the city, and regularly change printers. Reporters make sudden appearances at their bureaux, and never stay in one place long.

With this technique, said Mr Ojudu: "We can be sure that if the government prescribed us today, we will come out tomorrow."

informative:

With effect from 2 January 1996 the following rates will apply:

Mortgage Rate		
(for mortgages taken out after 12 March 1995 with no interest rate discount)	From	To
All loan amounts	7.39% pa	6.95% pa
Equity Release Loan		
(for loans taken out after 12 March 1995 with no interest rate discount)	From	To
If a mortgage is held with First Direct or no other mortgage is outstanding on your property:	7.39% pa	6.95% pa
If a mortgage is held which is not with First Direct:	9.39% pa	8.95% pa

first direct

First Direct is a division of Midland Bank plc

Member HSBC Group

With elections next year, Australia's PM may be popular, but his party is not, writes Christopher Zinn in Sydney

A SENIOR government figure was anonymously quoted in a Melbourne newspaper recently as saying of Australia's prime minister, Paul Keating: "He has a problem because anyone he can meet likes him. But you can't meet the whole population."

Yesterday the Labour leader marked the fourth anniversary of the dramatic party coup against Bob Hawke that ushered him to power. On the evidence of a recovering economy and an eight-point personal lead in the opinion polls over the opposition leader, John Howard, enough people like him to keep his political fortunes buoyant.

Britain's Labour Party leader, Tony Blair, who is making his second visit to Australia this year, has said he is keen to learn the secret of Mr Keating's success. Mr

Blair's Christmas visit is a private one, however, and the two are not expected to meet. But as Mr Keating prepares to fight an election in the new year, the acid-tongued son of a boilermaker remains a contradiction for many.

On the one hand, he is the charming and down to earth prime minister who has never lost touch with his working-class roots; who refuses to fly the national flag on his official car because he is happy to be stuck in the traffic without "going along like some potentate".

On the other, he is perceived as autocratic and arrogant. He once called Australia the "arse end of the earth", if his former mentor and now bitter rival, Mr Hawke, is to be believed.

As Christine Wallace, the Canberra-based political biographer, put it: "Australia

does not know its prime minister and has yet to come to grips with his prime ministership." He is a private man who jealously guards the privacy of his Dutch-born wife and four children.

But while Mr Keating might be doing well in the polls, his party is not. Voters want change, and the Liberal-National coalition has a six-point lead over Labour, with an election due by May.

These range from historic aboriginal land rights legislation, a controversial plan to

returning to their own vomit, "grubs" and "political harlots".

However, he can also be a "true believer", to use the Labour term. Since he won power in his own right by a handful of votes in the 1993 federal poll, he has embarked on an ambitious series of initiatives.

These range from historic aboriginal land rights legislation, a controversial plan to

He once called his country the 'arse end of the earth', if his former mentor and now rival, Bob Hawke, is to be believed

Mr Keating, aged 51, is a wily operator. Since he toppled Mr Hawke in December 1991, after a sustained campaign of destabilisation, he has seen off two opposition leaders.

His competitiveness and aggression are legendary. In Question Time in parliament he has variously referred to the opposition as "dogs

make Australia a republic by 2001, and closer links with Asia which culminated in the signing this week of a landmark security agreement with Indonesia.

"Leadership is not about being popular," Mr Keating once said. "It's about being right and being strong... It's about doing what the nation requires; making profound

judgments about profound issues."

That style has led to Mr Keating being widely misunderstood — in Britain at least — as a Pom-bashing republican who had the temerity, in his own colourful but disputed words to the Guardian recently, to "twack the Queen's bra-strap".

In fact, he has said he "very greatly" values the relationship between the two countries, which have fast-growing trade ties. He has even admitted spending an "excited" weekend reading a book on Churchill and listening to Elgar's Enigma Variations.

Mr Keating has always been very conscious of history and his role in it. He still represents the same Sydney working-class seat of Blaxland, which he won in 1989, aged 25. The 1996 election will be the sixth he has contested.

A trade union activist and manager of a 1960s rock band called The Ramrods, Mr Keating styled his electioneering on Theodore White's book about the Kennedy campaign,

The Making of the President.

In 1975 he became the youngest ever federal Labour minister and was already being tipped for greatness. But he had to wait until 1993 when a rejuvenated Labour Party was returned to power under Mr Hawke, and Mr Keating became treasurer.

Their partnership dominated the economic deregulation of the decade as the Australian economy was opened up to world competition. Cartoons of the time represented Mr Keating as a humourless undertaker.

The recession that he later said the country "had to have", saw a record 1 million Australians out of work, and many still find it hard to forgive him.

Yet the man who passionately polarises Australians, and fought so hard for the top job, says he would not be a broken man if he lost it all.

He told Ms Wallace: "I could, in a sense, look over my shoulder at it and say I gave it everything I had. I gave it absolutely everything I had."

صوتنا من الامم

Bosnians shed no tears as the UN's blue flag is folded and the top brass of the Western alliance assume command

Nato comes to the fore on day of the generals

IN THE shattered remains of Sarajevo's airport, the United Nations' British commander in Bosnia, Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith, will formally relinquish his command today and pass the responsibility for keeping the peace to Nato.

Despite the billions of pounds and the lives of more than 100 soldiers which the UN protection force (Unprofor) gave during its 45-month effort to contain the Bosnian conflict, the eyes of locals will remain resolutely dry when it folds its blue flag and leaves.

By contrast, Gen Smith is viewed as a hero in Sarajevo and beyond, despite his deliberately low public profile. The Bosnian government pressed a passport on him at his weekend leaving party.

A foreign ministry official lauded him as a "great general, because he had a strong moral as well as military sense". UN military officers and civilians sing his praises.

Even the Bosnian Serbs, whose forces he helped bomb to the negotiating table, view him with grudging respect.

He is credited with having played a pivotal role in forcing the UN to grasp the nettle of peace enforcement, when it was evident that peacekeeping was at a dead end.

The UN was hated by almost everyone here because for three years the international community failed to make up its mind what to do about Bosnia," said one senior UN official in Sarajevo. "Rupert Smith forced it to make up its mind."

When Gen Smith arrived in Bosnia 11 months ago, a ceasefire was in place, a flamboyant predecessor, Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, painted a picture of impending peace. It turned out to be phoney. The truce coincided with the winter break in fighting. When spring came, the conflict resumed.

Moreover, the temporary peace disguised Unprofor's own decaying credibility. Its troops were pushed around by the Bosnian Serbs with impunity. The Serbs decided who could enter Sarajevo by land, and who could land at the UN-administered airport.

By early this year, as one UN official put it, "we were no longer in the food-aid business" — Unprofor's main role. "Rupert saw that our

Nato commanders took up position last night, set to start peace enforcement operations in Bosnia today. Maj-Gen Sir Michael Walker, new commander of Nato ground troops, said: "We offer the chance of something that everybody wants — peace." In Sarajevo today, outgoing UN chief, Lieut-Gen Rupert Smith, hands over to Nato. From Gornji Vakuf, Julian Borger profiles the man seen by many as the hero of Bosnia

choice was indefinite appeasement or an action which would push us to crisis," said one of Gen Smith's UN colleagues. "He decided he had to push us into crisis."

Most observers believe Gen Smith fully expected the Serbs to take peacekeepers hostage when he ordered two Nato air strikes in May.

By the unwritten rules of the game, he was meant to deliver a token rebuke when the Serbs failed to return heavy weapons to UN supervision. Gen Smith raised the stakes, destroying an ammunition dump near Pale, and inflicting the first real damage on the Serbs.

The Serb commander, General Ratko Mladic, was speechless with rage, and began seizing peacekeepers. The UN hierarchy was furious. The air strikes jeopardised the organisation's reputation of impartiality and brought it closer to direct confrontation with the Serbs.

Gen Smith had planned to escalate the air strikes as long as the Serbs refused to comply — irrespective of the hostages. But, after the second Nato raid, the order came from New York to stop.

This was followed on June 9 by a meeting in Split between the general, his French superior, General Bernard Janvier, and the top UN civilian official, Yasushi Akashi.

Gen Smith was told to return to "traditional peacekeeping principles". But it was too late.

France and Britain had already decided to send reinforcements in a hastily assembled rapid reaction force whose arrival in July and August drastically altered the strategic balance.

The 12,000-strong force gave Gen Smith access to artillery and planning staff with which he prepared for two contingencies: an eventual withdrawal, or a showdown with the Serbs around Sarajevo.

By early July, Gen Smith and his UN staff still believed a withdrawal was more likely. It was the fall of Srebrenica on July 11 and the subsequent massacre of thousands of Muslims by Serb forces which finally pushed the international community towards peace enforcement.

The subsequent London conference freed UN and Nato commanders from the need to consult UN civilian officials,

and allowed them to use disproportionate force.

It paved the way for the land-air battle which Gen Smith and the Nato commander, Admiral Leighton Smith, unleashed on the Serbs at the end of August.

The key to begin the battle was turned by Gen Smith. When a Serb mortar landed near a Sarajevo market, killing 37, his cautious superior, Gen Janvier, was on holiday.

"I think if Janvier had been here, there would have been no land-air battle, and I don't think we would have been where we are now," said one UN official in Sarajevo.

The UN hierarchy in New York was aghast at the scale and duration of the bombardment of Serb positions. Gen Smith argued for a stand to restore UN credibility.

On October 30, the day the air strikes began, the Bosnian Serbs handed over their right to negotiate at the peace talks to Serbia's president, Slobodan Milosevic.

The raids also provided Bosnian government and Croatian forces with an opportunity to achieve a military balance in western Bosnia. This paved the way for the November talks in Dayton, Ohio, which led to the peace deal signed in Paris last week.

Gen Smith has left an ambiguous legacy. Some UN officials, such as the chief civilian official in Sarajevo, Antonio Padayachee, have argued that he has carved out a niche for UN peace enforcement.

Mr Padayachee said future peacekeeping missions should have more military intelligence, flexibility and equipment, "so that deterrence really works". Others argue the Bosnian experience demonstrated that the UN's caution, and decision by committee, makes it structurally incapable of leading further peace enforcement missions.

As one UN official put it: "Smith was a one-off." Richard Holbrooke, the United States diplomat who helped negotiate the Bosnian peace deal, plans to resign next year and is expected to return to industry. US officials say he will be succeeded by John Kornblum, a career diplomat. A retired US diplomat, Robert Frowick, was yesterday appointed to supervise civilian peace efforts in Bosnia.



Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith today hands over to Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Walker (below right), the chief of Nato forces on the ground in Bosnia, and General Mike Jackson, British commander in western Bosnia



British soldier faces tough task

David Fairhall

GENERAL Mike Jackson, who commands the British sector in western Bosnia, brings with him a reputation for toughness acquired in his years with the Parachute Regiment. His swarthy looks fit the part.

In a reverse of the soldier's normal progression from front-line trenches to a staff officer's desk, Gen Jackson began his army career learning Russian in the Intelligence Corps. Only after graduating from Birmingham University did

he transfer to the paras, eventually commanding the regiment's first battalion in the mid-1980s.

His immediate task in Bosnia will be to demonstrate to the local militias — which he pointedly refers to as the "former" warring factions — that the heavily equipped, Nato-led implementation force (I-FOF) is a different animal from the United Nations Protection Force (Unprofor). The I-FOF's rules of engagement differ in that they allow troops to open fire first if threatened.

Before leaving to take up his post in Gornji Vakuf,

the general emphasised that he was prepared to enforce the peace agreement if necessary.

He will insist on freedom of movement for his troops, particularly in Serb-controlled areas where UN peacekeepers have hitherto been restricted.

Gen Jackson's Nato post derives from his command of the 3rd Airborne Division, based at Bulford near Salisbury. This division is providing a multinational divisional structure to which various units are being attached in western Bosnia: the 4th Armoured Brigade, including two British in-

fantry battalions already serving in the area, a Dutch armoured battle group, a Canadian-led brigade including Czechs and Malaysians, and possibly a Pakistani brigade.

The division's biggest task will be to restore 2,000 square miles of territory to Serbs driven from it in recent fighting.

Before becoming a divisional commander, Gen Jackson spent two years in the Ministry of Defence. Before that he served in Northern Ireland and Berlin, as well as on the directing staff of the army staff college at Camberley.

World news in brief

India prolongs federal rule in Kashmir

THE Indian parliament yesterday extended federal rule over Kashmir, abandoning hopes of holding an election in the state, where militants are leading an armed campaign for independence. A resolution prolonged the central government's authority over Jammu and Kashmir state for six months, the maximum allowed. Kashmir's legislature was dismissed in 1990 when the separatist rebellion became violent. More than 12,000 people

have been killed in Kashmir, the only Muslim-majority province in mainly Hindu India.

The government of the prime minister, P. V. Narasimha Rao, had called for an election to reconstitute the legislature. The move was overturned last month by the election commission, which ruled that the state remained too unstable to allow candidates to stand without intimidation, or for voting to be held freely.

In an unrelated incident yesterday, a bomb destroyed a house owned by Syed Ali Shah Gilani, a leader of the Hurriyat Council, an umbrella group of 32 pro-independence groups in Kashmir. The Press Trust of India news agency said.

The motive for the attack on the house in Sopore was not known. Mr Gilani was not living there at the time of the explosion, escaped an attack by rival militant groups in October. — Reuters.

CIA chief sees surge in terror around world

THE head of the Central Intelligence Agency, John Deutch, predicted a worldwide surge in terrorism in the next decade and said yesterday he was shifting US spy resources to help meet the threat.

"I regret that I have come to the conclusion there is going to be tremendous growth in terrorism over the next decade or so, not only directed towards Americans but throughout the world," he told the House of Representatives Intelligence Committee.

Mr Deutch said that the rise would have "immense impact on how we conduct our foreign policy, immense impact on how American businesses operate abroad."

He said: "It is my judgment that ideologies and regimes inimical to democracy will continue to exist. Examples today are Iran, Iraq and North Korea." He also cited unspecified transnational groups involved in drug running, organised crime and terrorism.

Mr Deutch said the CIA and other US intelligence agencies were "shifting resources" to cope with the threat. He called for a halt to criticism of the CIA's covert operations arm, decried in recent years for having a Moscow mole in its midst and bribing bureaucrats for trade secrets in Paris. — Reuters.

'Unite' call to Russian reformists

David Hearst in Moscow

THE LEADER of the only liberal party to make a good showing in Russia's parliamentary elections, Grigory Yavlinsky, called yesterday for reformist groups to field a single candidate in June's presidential election.

In a declaration aimed against both the triumphant Communists and President Boris Yeltsin, Mr Yavlinsky said: "We need to create the broadest coalition in an attempt to find a single candidate... I believe it is important to unite all forces opposed to attempts to restore a totalitarian system."

His liberal-centrist Yabloko party stands fourth in incomplete results from Sunday's parliament election. Once the results from single-seat constituencies and party-list tallies are combined, the party looks like getting about 50 seats in the new 450-seat parliament.

The front-running Communists were yesterday set to take one-third of the seats, about 150, clinching the likelihood that their leader, Gennady Zyuganov, will be the main challenger to Mr Yeltsin in the presidential poll.

Counting of the votes remained excruciatingly slow, both for the 225 seats in first-past-the-post constituencies, and the 225 allocated on a party-list system.

Of the 128 single-seat constituencies declared by yesterday afternoon, the Communist Party took 45 — a high number through a system supposed to favour government candidates.

The Agrarians, the ideological stable mates of the Communists, stormed through with 19 seats, while the Our Home is Russia party of the prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, got only 10.

This leaves anti-government parties, including Yabloko, very close to the two-thirds majority needed for the new Duma to override the upper house of parliament's veto on legislation.

The latest share of the

party-list vote put the Communists at 21.5 per cent, the extreme nationalist Liberal Democratic Party of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy at 10.8 per cent, Our Home is Russia at 9.7 per cent, and Yabloko fourth, with 7.6 per cent.

With the mild-mannered Mr Zyuganov far out in front, Mr Chernomyrdin tried to bluff it out by declaring that there would be no significant government changes as a result of his party's disastrous results.

"Changes, shifts, sackings — nothing of the sort will happen. Personnel changes have routinely taken place and will take place in future, but they have nothing to do with this [election]," he told reporters.

The prime minister had earlier discussed changes in the government with Mr Yeltsin at the sanatorium where the president is convalescing after his second heart attack.

The first cabinet change is likely to be that of the foreign minister, Andrei Kozyrev, who won a parliamentary

seat in Murmansk. Mr Kozyrev said he wanted to see Mr Yeltsin before making any statement about his future. Mr Kozyrev's parliamentary victory gives the embattled foreign minister a way of leaving office without losing face. Under the constitution, he cannot hold both posts simultaneously.

Mr Zyuganov said the government had to correct its economic policy. It could not ignore the will of the people that had been so clearly expressed in the election. "The policy should be corrected," he said. "No matter what they say now, it is impossible to continue this policy."

But his statements, as before, were mild-mannered. Most observers are agreed that it is not in Mr Zyuganov's interests, even with his party's buoyant showing, to provoke a crisis between the new Duma and the president. He will not want to provide Mr Yeltsin with any excuse to close parliament, which is constitutionally weak, or to cancel next June's election.

Rebels round on Kabul

THE Afghan government said yesterday that rebels fought its troops to the north and south of Kabul and rained rockets on the besieged capital.

Military analysts said the fighting had fuelled speculation that a possible new opposition alliance could emerge.

Forces commanded by the northern warlord, General Abdul Rashid Dostum, attacked government positions in the strategic Salang Pass on Monday, while those of the Taliban Islamic militia fought south of Kabul, a defence ministry source said.

The Taliban are trying to oust President Burhanuddin Rabbani and impose Islamic law across the land.

Taliban also fired 58 rockets into Kabul's residential areas yesterday, causing casualties and damage to property, the official Kabul radio said. — Reuters.

'131 dead' in Angola crash

A Zairean passenger aircraft with 138 people on board crashed in northern Angola yesterday and all but five were feared dead.

The five survivors, along with five corpses, were flown into Ndolo airfield, Kinshasa. Airfield officials said the survivors were being treated in one of the city's hospitals. — Reuters.

Censorship lifted

Sri Lanka will repeal its tough censorship law on news about the Tamil ethnic war, the president's office announced. — AP.

Pasta king dies

Giorgio Fini, a restaurateur who first packaged and sold homemade pasta, has died of a heart attack in a Rome clinic. He was 70. — AP.

Vietnam criticised

A US-based human rights group condemned Vietnam

yesterday for what it described as a new crackdown on dissent, a day after Hanoi rejected the appeal of Hoang Chanh Minh, an ailing intellectual, against imprisonment. Human Rights Watch/Asia said Hanoi's arrests of a high-ranking party member, Le Hong Ha, and a leading academic, Ha Si Phu, earlier this month were "deeply troubling". — Reuters.

Belgian strikes

Belgian railways and the national airline Sabena were hit by fresh strikes yesterday, causing cancellation of most flights of the carrier and stoppage of train traffic in southern Belgium. — Reuters.

Massacre law

South Korea's parliament passed a law yesterday, ordered by President Kim Young-sam to allow the punishment of two predecessors for the Kwangju massacre of pro-democracy protesters in 1980, a tragedy that scarred the nation. Yonhap news agency reported. — Reuters.

8 August. A new strategy for not working: empty the fluff not only from the sieve on the dryer door, which is routine, but from the grilles on the machine itself. This involves prising off the plastic covers and poking about with a skewer to dislodge the fluff that has fallen through. A quarter of an hour can be made to pass in this way.

Alan Bennett's diary

Jackdaw page 10

Imprisoned by dogma

Holloway is not the only jail that needs rescuing

IF HOLLOWAY was the only problem in the prison system it would be bad enough. The new Chief Inspector of Prisons, General Sir David Ramsbotham, was so horrified by what he found last week that he withdrew his inspection team on the fourth day of its surprise visit. Good for Sir David. There were genuine doubts whether this military successor to Judge Tumin would follow the independent line pursued by the irrepressible judge. Rambo, as Sir David was known in the armed services, has remained true to his military reputation. His precipitous action forced ministers to send an emergency team of 16 temporary staff to relieve the beleaguered prison.

Our separate interviews today with an inmate, a former education officer and a board of visitors member show just how far the prison falls short of the ambitious blueprint for the prison service drawn up by Lord Justice Woolf — and embraced by ministers — just four years ago. Designed as a secure hospital rather than a prison in the early 1970s, the "new" Holloway has never been an easy prison to administer. But the three independent witnesses report today on a retreat from even the inadequate old Holloway standards — a retreat driven by overcrowding, an obsession with security, and a cutback in active-regime facilities which are crucial in maintaining peace and stability in any prison: workshops, education, gym, counselling and job advice. Even the prison officers, no softies, are complaining about being turned into eighteenth century "turnkeys".

Does no one remember Woolf's main message? It could not have been plainer. Prison security can never be achieved by locks and bars alone. Far more crucial is a "dynamic regime" (with plenty of exercise, education and work) to relieve tensions and reduce the time inmates are locked away in

their cells letting grievances fester. Indeed, Woolf was adamant that justice should not stop at the prison gate but required proper grievance procedures within the walls. Remember, Woolf was reporting after the worst series of prison riots in the history of the prison system with the damage to just one of the 23 prisons involved, Strangeways, costing over £60 million.

All of which explains why Holloway is so serious. Because Holloway is not alone. A system which has crammed 12,000 extra inmates on top of 40,000 in three years is now facing a cut of 15 per cent to its running costs (and 50 per cent to its capital programme) over the next three years. Name any other service which has had a 30 per cent increase in demand being asked to make a 15 per cent cut? In a confidential address which the Guardian has read, the acting director of the prison service conceded regimes would be hurt by the cuts — and other prisons need rescuing like Holloway. When a prison service which has become inured to unacceptable sanitation, inadequate kitchens and filthy medical facilities complains about a deterioration in standards, outside observers should be in no doubt about how dire standards have become.

One man may be celebrating this deterioration. Michael Howard was complaining about the so-called "soft life" in prison almost before he got through the Home Office door. One of the first leaks under his rule involved his call for harsher conditions. Compare that cheap message with the robust declaration of an earlier Home Secretary, Winston Churchill, that the best test of any civilised society was the standards of its prisons. Mr Howard ended the previous bipartisan goal of making prisons more humane. He deserves to be hoisted by his own petard, but a new round of riots would be too high a price for the system.

Public ethics v private profits

The Oflot regulator has failed the whiter-than-white test

PETER DAVIS, the regulator for the National Lottery yesterday received a muted vote of confidence from Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary and will now stay in his job. But the problem doesn't end there. It is now vital that the whole structure of the lottery is changed before the same sorry scenario happens in a different form. Mr Davies was, as we have said before, absolutely wrong to accept free air flights from a company involved in the lottery which he is supposed to be regulating. Lotteries, like the rest of the gambling industry, inevitably have huge flows of cash going through their books. It is axiomatic that anyone who is regulating them in the public interest should be not only whiter-than-white but also seen to be. Peter Davies failed this test. Sure, he didn't do anything illegal — but that's part of the problem.

The office of the regulator as currently constructed is a law unto itself (and that applies to other industries as well as the lottery). Technically Mr Davis may not have been doing anything legally wrong in accepting those flights. The Heritage Department had warned him in advance not to take free rides on jets owned by GTECH, a shareholder in Camelot, the lottery operator. But that was because the Government had written the rules enabling him to ignore governmental advice if he so wished.

There may have been a good motive — to ensure that the regulator was not dictated to by ministers as public enter-

prises have been in the past. But Oflot has got to be accountable to someone. Second, and just as important, Oflot's brief must be changed. Its present role to regulate the lottery while simultaneously maximising its income entails a conflict of interest. If anyone had suggested this as a structure for the Gaming Board which regulates gambling (and which ought to be a role model for Oflot in terms of codes of conduct) they would have been laughed out of court.

Third, the regulator should be given a more pro-active role with regard to his powers. Unlike the electricity or water regulators who have tightened the screws when they have seen excess profits being made (however legally) the Oflot regulator has remained supine while Camelot has made profits far in excess of anything envisaged either by the Government, or by Oflot or indeed by itself.

What has gone badly wrong is that in its mania to introduce private sector disciplines into everything in the public sector, the Government has tried to rid itself of something that can't be privatised: public ethics. Irrespective of whether it is illegal or not and without regard to whether it offends a written code of conduct, it is plain and simply wrong for a regulator to accept such hospitality from those he or she regulates. Everyone in public service knows that. If Mr Davis had understood it none of this criticism would have arisen.

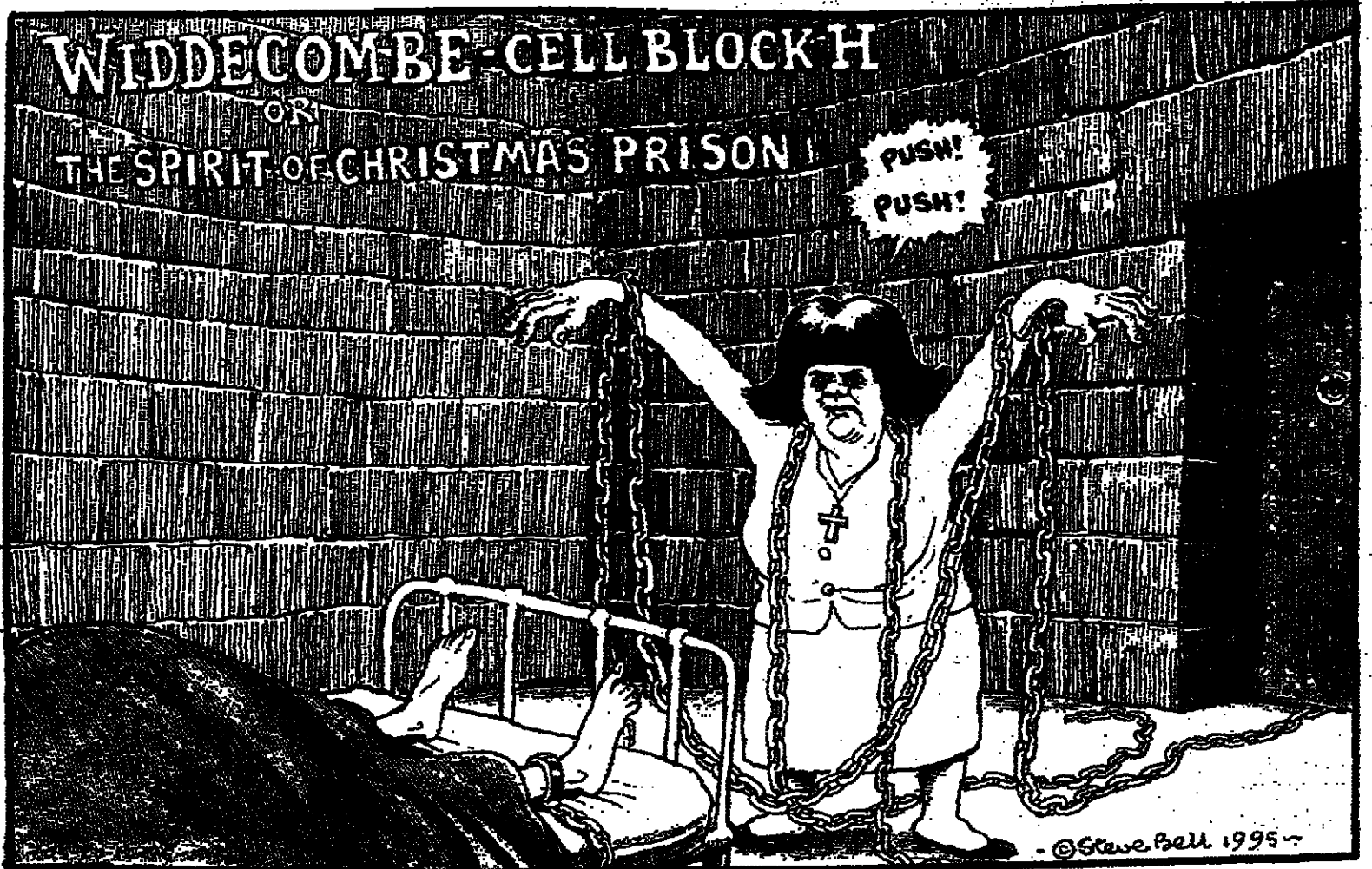
Another barrier comes down

The Seven Wise Men have become five men and two women

WHEN the Treasury set up its panel of independent economists to advise it on policy, it searched the length of the land for candidates. It eventually came up with seven varied people ranging from Professor Wynne Godley, the Cassandra from Keynesian Cambridge, to Liverpool's evangelical monetarist, Patrick Minford. It soon became apparent that there was something else different about them as well. Yes, wait a minute... you've got it. They were all men. Nowhere among the 58 million inhabitants of the 245,000 square kilometres of the UK could they find a single woman deemed able to advise the 100th Chancellor of the Exchequer (yes, they were all men as well) about economic policy. Whether that had anything to do with the fact that those choosing the panel were men can only be guessed at.

In early 1993 the Guardian decided to test the Government's view that only men had anything useful to say about

the economy. We set up our own panel of independent advisers who quickly became known as the Seven Wise Women. They have strengthened our financial and economic pages with regular reports on the economy accompanied by incisive analyses of macro- and micro-economic problems. Several have since become media pundits and one, Kate Barker, is now the CBI's chief economist. Yesterday two of them received fresh acclaim. Bridget Rosewell of Business Strategies and Kate Barker were appointed to two vacant positions on the Treasury's panel. Another barrier down, another glass ceiling broken. The Seven Wise Men are no longer. We will, thankfully, have to call them something else. It remains to be seen how much longer the chancellorship itself is retained as a one-man club. Meanwhile our congratulations for two appointments as wise as they are overdue.



Letters to the Editor

A jury that is still out on Myra

IF THERE is an obscenity in your coverage of Myra Hindley (December 18), it is that you have given her a platform. You started by publishing a reply to your description of her as a psychopath — a somewhat absurd extension of a right to reply. But now you go beyond the right to reply by providing two full pages of newspaper (by invitation), a weaselly editorial, and a do-gooding "thought for the day" on a woman who, at best, aided and abetted the vicious murder of children. Their families are as imprisoned by her terrible acts as she has been, and they deserve the certainty that she will not be liberated while the spurious claim that it will enlarge our understanding of an evil mind. What is evident is that she has powerful friends who are not prominent in the lives of her victims.

Peggy W Adams,
 Sporis, King's Lynn,
 Norfolk

I BOUGHT a copy of the December 18 Guardian only because the paper I usually buy had sold out. I must say that I was completely taken by surprise to find such a high standard of journalism. Ten years or so ago I decided to stop buying The Guardian as it seemed to me to be pretentious and sneering. What a change! The

to give her side of the story? It is precisely this function as touchstone for all that is allegedly nasty and depraved that has led to her continued incarceration, despite her having served well in excess of what could possibly be considered sufficient punishment. But how foolish of me. I was thinking of justice and not revenge.

Adrian McClure,
 Hollywood Road,
 Belfast BT4 1NT

I AM horrified that you should renew the misery of Hindley's poor victims' families by giving space to yet another demand by her for public attention under the spurious claim that it will enlarge our understanding of an evil mind. What is evident is that she has powerful friends who are not prominent in the lives of her victims.

Peggy W Adams,
 Sporis, King's Lynn,
 Norfolk

I BOUGHT a copy of the December 18 Guardian only because the paper I usually buy had sold out. I must say that I was completely taken by surprise to find such a high standard of journalism. Ten years or so ago I decided to stop buying The Guardian as it seemed to me to be pretentious and sneering. What a change! The

Hindley articles, including the one written by Hindley herself, were what I look for in a newspaper: sensitive and important issues discussed fairly and openly, with a total lack of sensationalism. You have gained at least one new reader.

Frank Johnson,
 Sinclair Drive,
 Liverpool L18 0HN

SOMETHING strikes me very forcibly from reading Hindley's letter: there is no evidence at all of any understanding of what she has done. For this I still have to listen to the voices of the parents of the children that she killed. Hindley's words, words, words are a kind of malignant narcissism of the type traditionally associated with truly evil people. This desire for review and re-evaluation is common among people who behave in grossly unacceptable ways that in some dark secret place they still defend.

A more convincing form of statement would be to keep her head down and realise that there are other parallel life sentences going on, also inescapable and far less deserved: the lives of the parents and family of her victims.

Walter Cairns,
 Thomas Moss Street,
 London E1 9UA

A COMMON creative-writing exercise is to tell a well-known story from an unconventional point of view. If Hindley were to re-tell her story from the point of view of the children she helped to torture and murder, perhaps she would understand why Northern people want to see her remain in prison for the rest of her life.

Glynis Reeve,
 Glossop, Derbyshire

WAS the archetypal Hindley character. But now I have completely revised my opinion. Thirty years in a penal institution is indeed a harsh penalty: most murderers serve less than half this sentence. Let us remember that she will face an extremely hostile world outside which may soon make her wish she were back inside.

Has she been adequately reformed? This appears to be the view of the overwhelming majority of experts who have examined her. Is she still a danger? Anyone as instantly recognisable will surely never have the opportunity of attacking a vulnerable human being again, even assuming she would still wish to. Let us put a stop to this obsession with Hindley and campaign for her early release.

Walter Cairns,
 Thomas Moss Street,
 London E1 9UA

A little of what you fancy

MY favourite, Murray Walker gem (December 14) was live from Suzuka, Japan, as Northern Irishman Eddie Irvine headed for sixth place in his first-ever Grand Prix. Well, if they have any shillelaghs in Suzuka — which I very much doubt — they'll be playing them tonight.

David Buckton,
 6 Crosby Road,
 London E7 9HU

AS A Muslim woman who has been trying to get onto the Labour Party's list of parliamentary candidates, without success, I applaud the moves by the party in Glasgow to prevent a Muslim man becoming a candidate.

Not until our men join in the struggle to create a new feminist interpretation of the Koran, can they expect to represent a party devoted to equality, justice and fairness.

Cherry Mostesbar,
 Oxford OX2

WHAT a versatile man Mr Venables is. Nightclub owner, TV pundit, actor, snooker promoter, crooner — and he still finds time for his court appearances. Maybe running the England football team should be a full-time appointment. We have an important tournament next summer.

D C Godfrey,
 10 Bonser Road,
 Twickenham TW1 4RG

IF Jim Golcher (Letters, December 18) had paused at the small community on the Strang River, he would have found out that the proprietor of the Kinabalu Trailway premises not only wears a Newcastle shirt, but is secretary and chairman of the Sabah branch of the Newcastle United Supporters Association.

Tony Henderson,
 62 Wansboro Avenue,
 Cullercoats, Tyne & Wear.

READ with some angst (December 19) that Roger Gals, chair of the Commons backbench media committee, is demanding a ban on letter-writing. I knew the Tories were desperate but this is surely going too far.

Keith Fleet,
 38 Middle Road,
 London N17 9HG

TODAY I overheard two children calling each other "beefbrain". They were clearly calling each other's intelligence into question. Is this saying to do with BSE?

Richard Brashall,
 9 North Road,
 Bulfinch Wells, Powys LD2 3BU

Labouring in The Wilderness

THE Wilderness Years was a rehearsal of the conventional Right who firmly believed in strong defence, realism about Europe and a mixed economy — views which, of course, were shared by Labour voters. Starting with the gains on the National Executive Committee in 1981, the centre Right was steadily able to reassert its influence on both the organisation and policy and realign the party with our supporters.

They achieved this partly by winning the ideological argument but also by dint of organisation at all levels in the party. How any programme that covers the 1980s in four hours of television can totally ignore the key role of Terry Duffy is quite amazing. Possibly the elitists in the BBC cannot bear the idea that an ordinary Englishman could have played such an important part.

John F Speller MP,
 House of Commons,
 London SW1A 0AA

EVERYONE in the Labour movement desperately wants to defeat this government. But no one should mistake that for any sort of moral or intellectual triumph for "New Labour" over the aspirations of the British people for full employment, fairness and democracy.

Labour politics may now appear to be paralysed. But when that victory has been won, people may be surprised to learn how strong the passion for social justice is within the party, how much public support it enjoys and how shallow are the personalised sound-bite politics that now pass for serious debate about the future.

Tony Benn MP,
 House of Commons,
 London SW1A 0AA

ALTHOUGH it started out as a camera is so powerful that it persuades senior Labour Party members in January/March this year to participate, knowing it would be broadcast in the run-up to a general election. What is the gain? Who exactly benefits?

We do not have to keep talking about a recent distressing period of history to put across the case that we have learned the lessons from that period. At least I hope not.

Jeff Rooker MP,
 House of Commons,
 London SW1A 0AA

Please include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a daytime telephone number. We may edit letters for clarity and concision. We regret we cannot acknowledge those we do not use.



Oh come off it, all ye faithful

THE game is up. When an Anglican vicar like Brian Andrews says that stories about Father Christmas and the Tooth Fairy aren't true, the obvious answer is that there is much better evidence for them than for the birth of Jesus. And when David Jenkins says that the stories about Jesus's birth aren't literally true, the obvious answer is that there is no better reason to believe they are metaphorically true either. No adult believes in Father Christmas or the Tooth Fairy, and virtually no one in Palestine believed in Jesus at the

time, so why should any child believe in them?

Nicolas Walter,
 88 Islington High Street,
 London N1 8EW

FAR from preventing schools from putting on a nativity play (December 15), the revised national curriculum gives new opportunities for linking drama in English with subjects such as RE. All children should learn about the Christmas story, one of the best ways is by acting it out.

Dr Nicholas Tate,
 Chief Executive, SCAA,
 London W11 3JB

On drugs

HAVE applied for a licence (Labour seeks inquiry as more heroin addicts die, December 16) from the Home Office to prescribe diamorphine (heroin). This request has been pending for nearly two years.

The ex-Chief Inspector of the drugs branch, "Bing" Spear, blames an influential band of London-based consultant psychiatrists "who have constantly advised the government that drug-takers cannot be maintained indefinitely on heroin".

It is presumably this orthodoxy that allows the authorities to issue a monopoly licence for the production of pharmaceutical heroin despite a European Court ruling against the Government for restrictive practice. The pricing structures allow proportion of substitute prescribing to seduce cost-conscious health authorities to adopt a regime that is increasingly injurious to patient welfare.

(Dr) Adrian Garfoot,
 Fairways Clinic,
 2 Laybourne House,
 Admirals Way,
 London E14 9UH

A Country Diary

CHESHIRE: As a result of field work carried out over the past two years, it appears that the breeding population of the barn owl in Cheshire stands at an estimated 12 pairs. Of this total, eight pairs are at known and monitored sites, and the estimate of a further four pairs is based on records and observations during the breeding season, of birds hunting in suitable habitats. The bad news does not end there — at the eight controlled nesting sites, only four pairs produced young. In the country as a whole, the barn owl is now very scarce in many areas or has disappeared altogether and this decline in its population has been going on for 60 years or more, showing a marked acceleration over the past 30 years.

A W Boyd in his country diaries written in the late thirties made many references to the disappearance of the bird from its usual haunts in Cheshire, and he took some positive action to help arrest the local decline by erecting a nesting platform in a loft

which held a breeding pair for many years. The causes behind this slump are not fully understood, but major contributory factors have been the vast changes in agriculture, especially arable farming, with the loss of prey-rich habitats, and the disappearance of farmland under the spread of urban and industrial development. In the long-term, climate changes could be involved — in Britain the barn owl is at the extreme north west edge of its range. The DDT insecticide disasters of the late 1950s, which decimated the peregrine and sparrow hawk populations, had its effect, but while the raptors have shown a remarkable comeback, the owl has been slow to recover. In an effort to help the bird re-establish itself, and encourage its expansion in the county, the Cheshire Barn Owl Group has formulated both short-term and long-term priorities whose success may depend on the adoption of more sympathetic agricultural practices.

J M THOMPSON

Diary

Matthew Norman

A REVOLUTIONARY approach to news management has been devised by dramatist Jonathan Harvey. Last year's winner of the Evening Standard award for most promising playwright, Mr Harvey has banned that paper's drama critic, Nicholas de Jongh, from seeing his new play. Because Mr de Jongh disliked The Rupert Street Lonely Hearts Club when he saw it elsewhere, Mr Harvey ordered him on no account to attend its opening at the Criterion last night. This cunning ruse has been a tremendous success. Mr de Jongh, who had other things to do that evening and intended to leave the review to a colleague, has now decided to go himself. Later this week, "I've been threatened with murder by John Osborne, and subjected to physical and personal abuse," says Mr de Jongh, "but never have I faced such a blatant attempt at censorship." Meanwhile the chairman of the Critics' Circle drama section has written to the playwright telling him not to be so silly. There is a silver lining, though: should the play flop, Harvey is likely to be offered a job by Labour press chief, Alastair "Bob's Boy" Campbell.

THIS year's visit by Santa Claus to the Australian outback took on a different tone. Arriving at a remote town on Tuesday night, he was instantly surrounded by 30 children aged between eight and 13. Some pinched him, some kicked him in the groin, and some punched his kidneys. Others tried to yank off his beard and steal sweets. One assailant made a getaway with his red cap. According to an eyewitness, Santa fled to the police station for sanctuary, whereupon officers — responding to chants of "Don't hurt Santa" from a breakaway group of well-behaved children — drove him straight back to the mob. Having doled out sweets through the partially opened window of a Black Maria, he finally left the town. In truth, the trouble was not unforeseeable. Santa was pelted with bottles last year in Bourke, while in 1993 a gang dragged him off a river boat and tried to disrobe him.

WITH heart-stopping unpredictability, the Daily Mail has attacked the Guardian's publication of the Mrs Hindley letter. William Odie, once the cuddly one in the Goodies, was so angry that the letter was given two pages that his own article was spread over two pages. Another page went to unauthorised extracts from the copyrighted letter, which even now lawyers are studying, and a fourth to that master of the carefully considered psychiatric response, Dr Raj Persaud. As for the leading article, this suggested that the letter was cynically published purely to gain circulation. The Mail's only other reference to the story was a huge puff for its own coverage at the top of page one.

ACCORDING to my so-called rival on the downmarket Daily Express, the model Paula Hamilton has decided that she is an 18th-century Irish baker called Ashley Brown. This is intriguing news. Previously, Miss Hamilton was better known for advertising VW cars, vomiting in the back of taxis, and frequenting that exclusive celebrity resort, The Brink. (Often a headline would announce: "Model Paula Hamilton, back from The Brink.") And she has slipped through a tear in the fabric of the space-time vortex, or possibly a worm hole, and emerged baking soda bread in County Cork in the 1780s. To celebrate this splendid feat of organising the first Diary Forum at the Albert Hall next month. An invited audience will listen to a dialogue on the nature of time travel between Miss Hamilton herself and Professor Stephen Hawking. The arbitrator will be Mystic Meg.

EARLY signs that, even in opposition, Jack Squeegs Straw is having a powerful influence on public opinion about law and order. "Gretton residents are delighted," reports the Rutland Times, "to see the stocks and whipping post back on the Village Green."



How Stagecoach will cripple the railways

Commentary Will Hutton

THE QUESTION is whether Stagecoach and its ilk, which yesterday signalled the arrival of the brave new world of privatised railways by winning the first franchise running South West Trains, will ever match the efficiency of the old British Rail. Private ownership of rail was a by-product of incompetence, under-investment and passenger discomfort in the past, and in the post-war period BR, although hamstrung by lack of cash, fought back to deliver one of the most efficient railway systems in Europe. The new private owners of Britain's rail franchises will have to be very good indeed to match their public-sector counterparts.

This may seem a wayward opening paragraph given the rush of Conservative propagandists to the microphone to herald a bright new age of efficiency and passenger bliss now that the all-conquering private sector is supplanting the always inefficient public sector. But notwithstanding all the well-loved folklore surrounding use of Britain's rail

network — ranging from the wrong kind of leaves on the line to unexplained cancellations — the international comparisons are indisputable. Publicly owned British Rail was highly efficient. Privatisation is likely to raise costs, reduce services, inflict lower wages and working conditions and reduce efficiency. Public ownership can work, and work well.

The remarkable figures on BR's standing in the international efficiency rankings are comparatively easy to compile, comparing the traffic mileage completed by freight and passenger trains with the degree of electrification of the lines, size of workforce and numbers of locomotives and railcars. The figures are all published yearly by the International Union of Railways, and a diligent economist can quickly compute an efficiency league table relating the inputs by way of labour time and rolling stock to outputs in terms of miles travelled.

Pierre Pestieau of the University of Liège did just that for the European Commission in 1993, and the results were published in European Economy (Issue No 3) the same year — and which this writer chanced upon quite accidentally when researching an article published earlier this week on Switzerland. The OECD commented that on Pestieau's results Switzerland operated one of the most efficient rail systems in Europe — but what was striking to British eyes is that BR ranked

above even Switzerland in the league. The Dutch came top of the 19 rail systems, but the British stood third — just above the Swiss and French and well above the Germans and Italians. Even more dramatic is tracing how efficiency had developed over time. Pestieau shows how between 1962 and 1988 British Rail's efficiency went from the bottom of the league table to nearly the top — a rate of improvement that was second only to the Spanish.

The double talk is highlighted by Stagecoach's options as the new owner of South West Trains — a young company that quickly understood the importance of an ever-buoyant share price as it achieved under public ownership. But simple reflection reveals that to be ideological baloney, because two of the key underpinnings of public-sector efficiency — cheap working capital and lack of operational fragmentation — have been shattered. As for the alleged benefit of higher private-sector investment, that too is bogus. Private operators seek to make higher financial returns on their money than their public-sector counterparts, who are allowed to factor in some of the social benefits (although in Britain not many) of rail investment to justify what they are doing. Higher private investment will only emerge if the Government pays for it by higher subsidy levels.

The double talk is highlighted by Stagecoach's options as the new owner of South West Trains — a young company that quickly understood the importance of an ever-buoyant share price as it achieved under public ownership. But simple reflection reveals that to be ideological baloney, because two of the key underpinnings of public-sector efficiency — cheap working capital and lack of operational fragmentation — have been shattered. As for the alleged benefit of higher private-sector investment, that too is bogus. Private operators seek to make higher financial returns on their money than their public-sector counterparts, who are allowed to factor in some of the social benefits (although in Britain not many) of rail investment to justify what they are doing. Higher private investment will only emerge if the Government pays for it by higher subsidy levels.

It can develop rail traffic by developing hub stations with its bus routes — but bus and rail travellers come from very different socio-economic groups, with different expectations and travel aims. The second is by cutting back on wages, staff numbers and conditions of employment as it has done with its other acquisitions. A new world of unmanned, dangerous stations and trains beckons along with an army of contractualised, unskilled workers.

In the immediate future Britain's rail travellers may be cheered up by leggy, high-heeled stewardesses (on short-term contracts) attending to their "in-travel" needs as part of the new passenger charter, but in the medium term the prospect is different. Passenger miles will fall, fares rise and efficiency drop as the franchise holders come to terms with the impossible economies of what they have undertaken. As public transport falters, road congestion will reach terrifying proportions.

The efficiency of a rail system, given the high fixed infrastructure costs and the necessity of maximising the use of all the rolling stock, is best achieved by running it as an integrated monopoly with access to the cheapest possible capital. Public ownership provides just that together with the capacity to justify high investment through the high social rates of return that originate in cheap mass transport. All Britain's highly efficient rail system needed to become the best in Europe was more investment, which could have been easily generated by changing the archaic rules on government finance. But rather than do that, the chosen option has been to privatise here and there in order to reduce services or asking the Government for higher subsidies. The answer is no in all cases. It has but two avenues. The first is to hope that

the coinage to buy out its competitors, which it has done with great capital aplomb and little respect for the competition authorities. Consider how Stagecoach can raise the efficiency of its new franchise. Has it access to locomotives and rolling stock across the network? Can it, with one small franchise, take a network's view of its services? Can it raise technical efficiency by new investment that won't damage its share price without raising fares, reducing services or asking the Government for higher subsidies? The answer is no in all cases. It has but two avenues. The first is to hope that

A new world of unmanned, dangerous stations and trains beckons

A new world of unmanned, dangerous stations and trains beckons

A new world of unmanned, dangerous stations and trains beckons

A new world of unmanned, dangerous stations and trains beckons

Party plays starring Tyrone West



David McKie

MORE THAN 50 Tory MPs are standing down at the next election. The total of Tory departures is still short of the 66 who bowed out in 1992. But that was from a larger parliamentary party. The proportion of resigners so far in this Parliament already exceeds the 15 per cent of 1992; and more will go before polling day.

There's a feature of this exodus which could further augment the Conservative Party's problems. This is what has come to be called the "incumbency factor" in British elections. It used to be that few if any candidates in an election were worth more than a few hundred votes to their parties. More recently, though, John Currie and Michael Steed, who write the statistical chapters at the end of Dr David Butler's Nuffield electoral studies, have varied that finding. An incumbent effect has been clearly identifiable in a range of seats where Tory MPs were defending seats won for the first time four years earlier. It was also detectable here and there in seats like the Western Isles, where longstanding and revered MPs stood down and their parties suffered accordingly.

Since Labour made far more gains than the Tories in 1992, most of the MPs who stand to benefit from the first time incumbent effect in 1996/97 will be Labour; and if, as expected, the swing is from Tory to Labour, they won't need that special protection. But what of the standers-down?

There's intriguing new testimony in the publication this week of the fifth edition of Robert Waller's Almanac of British Politics, which since 1983 has been the faithful companion of every election junkie, and which this time usefully adds to Waller's profiles of the UK constituencies brief accounts by Byron Criddle of MPs and their challengers.

Here and there, the book indicates, the Tories' chances of clinging on to a seat could be fatally exacerbated by the loss of a valued MP. One case in point is the occasionally wet Tory MP Robert Hicks (Cornwall SE), who has lately added his name to the list of the soon-to-be-fallen. One reason why this seat has withstood the Liberal tide in the region, Waller suggests, is that he's such an undisputed moderate: so much so that he was high on the list of Tory MPs tipped to leave for the

SDF in the early eighties. In this context, too, you need to add to the leavers those Tory MPs, people like the party chairman Dr Brian Mawhinney, who are leaving their seats for safer ones, either because they expect a swing to Labour next time big enough to dispatch them from Parliament, or because they fear the Boundary Commission has done for them. Could the MP's departure in some of these seats make the difference between the Conservatives hanging on to the seat, and Labour gaining it?

That is one of the disadvantages of a new constituency map. The other is the deep incomprehension of people who have yet to establish with certainty where constituencies like Wansdyke and Wansbeck are, but are now asked to come to terms with such brand new concoctions as Cotswold and Ochil. (Cotswold is Cirencester, less Tewkesbury, with which it was previously conjoined, but augmented by a chunk of what used to be Stroud. Ochil takes its name from a range of hills and is quite like the old Clackmannan.)

Waller will also save you from vulgar errors. Like supposing that Bradford North is the northern segment of Bradford: it isn't. It is more the East. Like thinking that what used to be Faversham and what used to be Mid-Kent are the mainstay of a new invention called Faversham and Mid-Kent: most of Faversham has gone to be part of Sittingbourne & Sheppey. Waller knows that Weaver Valley, where sounds like vernal Conservative, is more likely destined for Labour; and that Tyrone West isn't a film actor but an 18th seat given to Northern Ireland.

Where most people think in constituencies, Waller thinks in wards. To him, Basilidon isn't mere Basilidon but a tallising mélange taking in Corringham, Fobbing, the Homesteads, Orsett and Vange. Nor is he scared of predictions. He foresees bad days for the Liberal Democrats, with the possible loss, among others, of Malcolm Bruce's constituency, Gordon. He thinks one Labour married couple (Jane and Morgan) may soon represent half of Cardiff. He suspects that William Wallace may be saved from extinction by the timely accession of Westbury-on-Trym.

His new accomplice Criddle, though never as comprehensive as Andrew Roth, has some useful disclosures too. I never knew, for instance, that Helen Liddell, who succeeded John Smith at Monklands and is now an ultra-respectable member of the Labour front bench, had published a bodice-ripper with a title right out of Ann Summers: *Elite*.

The Almanac of British Politics, 5th edition, by Robert Waller and Byron Criddle, Routledge, £75 hardback/£25 paperback

A profit-seeking unit cost takes an old-fashioned stroll down Whitehall

An ethos up for sale

Lord Bancroft, former head of the Civil Service, warns that ideologically motivated privatisation will corrupt its public-service ethos. It shows the Government at its most disingenuous

IT IS the natural condition of every bureaucracy to be corrupt. If that is much less true in this country than in others, it is because for a long time now, but by no means long, our Civil Service has maintained high standards of probity. This has not happened by accident. High standards have persisted because they became deeply ingrained in the ethos of the service. That ethos was set for the new entrant from the very start by the method of recruitment to the service — open competitive examination.

Over the past 50 years, the Civil Service Commission and the Civil Service Selection Board have built up a system of selection, especially for graduate entrants and for future fast-stream officials, which has been the envy of the world. Many overseas governments have sent people to London to study and copy it for the recruitment of their own graduate and high-flying officials. It is with these that I am immediately concerned, while in no way underestimating the contribution of the very many members of the service who enter by different means.

To put it bluntly, open competition, supervised by an independent body itself pro-

tection against interference from any quarter, has been the bedrock of Civil Service standards for more than a century. It is now proposed to sell off its all-important arm, the Recruitment and Assessment Services (RAS), to a private company which will be under an obligation to maintain the viability of the RAS during this period.

This is disingenuous. The notes for questions and answers flanking the earlier Commons reply, though not of course in Hansard, are in the public domain. They state baldly that "staff may, in practice, find it difficult to secure this agreement". In effect, most or all of the existing staff are to be locked in, since they constitute the most prized asset up for sale.

THE House of Lords statement goes on to say that after privatisation "staff will be free to apply for Civil Service posts advertised externally". The mischief of the single word "externally" is that it gives the possibility of a transfer to only a handful of staff. The flanking notes to the House of Commons reply are more honest. In answer to the question: "Will the staff have any right of return to central government?" they say unequivocally: "No". All this elevates disingenuousness to a high, and unattractive, art form. The safeguards which are to be built into the privatisation process so as to secure the continuance of standards will be written into the criteria which have still to be drawn up for the selection of the new owner. Worth, too, perhaps the paper they are written on? The length of the contract will play a part as well; and this (of course) "has not yet been decided".

Sooner or later the absence of an in-house public-service selection organisation for graduate and fast-stream entrants will result in a dilution of public-service attributes and standards.

This, in turn, will compel departments and other organisations like the security services and the two Houses of Parliament to follow the example of companies in the private sector and undertake their own recruitment. The result will be more work, variations in standards and, of course, more expense.

By the Government's own admission, the execution of its decision to privatise has not yet been fully thought through. Is it too late for second, and wiser, thoughts? I am inclined by temperament and training to understate. So I take no pleasure in saying that for connoisseurs of ideological effrontery, this rush to privatise an essential safeguard of public-service standards wins a tarnished rosette.

Lord Bancroft was Head of the Home Civil Service and Permanent Secretary to the Civil Service Department 1978-81

Christmas on the street — or safe at St Mungo's?

It probably says a lot about St Mungo's that when we take people off the street, we find room for their best friend too. Being in St Mungo's means a clean, warm bed in a safe haven. It means decent treatment and friendly, acceptable help. There never has been any taint of chilly, Victorian charity about St Mungo's. It's probably one of the reasons why the Association has been so successful over the years. But that very success has brought its own problems. Demands on us grow year by year. People who were in long stay mental institutions are now semi-permanent guests in St Mungo's hostels. We make it our policy not to turn anyone away from our direct access hostels if it can be avoided. And once we accept people we do all we can to rehabilitate, retrain and settle them. So we have set ourselves very high standards indeed. Will you help us maintain those standards? We would be so grateful and so would the homeless of London, not to mention their dogs. Please would you send whatever you can afford, with the coupon below, to: the St Mungo Association Charitable Trust, Room H, Atlantic House, 1-3 Rockley Road, London W14 0DJ. (Charity registration number 291365)

I should like to support St Mungo's work with the homeless of London and I enclose a cheque/po for £..... or please debit my Visa/Access card no..... Signed.....

Exp. date..... Name (please print)..... Address.....

If you can't help us at the moment, do fill in and send the coupon and we will keep you informed of our work. Thank you.

Konrad Zuse

First on the digital track

KONRAD ZUSE, who invented the digital computer while no one else was looking, has died in Berlin at the age of 85. He was born in Berlin-Wilmersdorf and built his first mechanical calculating machine in his parents' living room between 1936 and 1938.

In Britain and the US, similar but later developments were supported for their military significance, but Zuse's work was largely ignored. When he and his colleagues later proposed the construction of a 2,000-tube computer for special use in anti-aircraft defence, they were asked how long it would take. Zuse says they replied "around two years". The response to this was: "And just how long do you think it'll take us to win the war?"

Zuse started to develop his ideas about computing in 1934, a year before he graduated from the Technische Hochschule with a degree in civil engineering. He then went to work for the Henschel aircraft company as a design engineer or *statiker*. This involved solving tedious linear equations, which stimulated Zuse to apply his ideas and try to build a system to solve them automatically.

His first machine, the V1 (with hindsight renamed the Z1) was made of pins and steel plates, but it represented two dramatic advances. First, it was a general purpose machine, whereas most calculating machines were dedicated to specific tasks. Second, it used binary (on/off or stop/start) numbers instead of decimal ones, as Babbage's far earlier machines had done. This made Zuse's machine far easier to construct, although it was to remain somewhat unreliable.

Although both decisions seem obvious now, they were far from obvious at the time. Zuse's choice of a general purpose approach was based on his separation of the different elements: an arithmetic unit to do the calculations, a memory for storing numbers, a control system to supervise operations, plus input and out-

put stages. This is still the basis of modern computers. Babbage had taken the same line 100 years earlier with his analytical engine, but it proved too difficult to build. Zuse succeeded partly because he chose the binary numbering system instead of using decimals. Binary means counting in twos, which is far more long-winded than counting in tens. However, to count in twos you only need an on/off switch, which is very much easier to construct than the 10-position decimal equivalent. Each operation may not do much work, but the speed of the simpler switching operation makes up for it.

Of course, mechanical switches are still somewhat primitive, and Zuse started to replace bulky mechanical ones in Z1 with second-hand electro-magnetic relays — the switches used in telephone systems. At the time, Zuse's



Zuse: binary vision

college friend, Helmut Schreyer, "suddenly had the bright idea of using vacuum tubes. At first I thought it was one of his student pranks." Vacuum tubes, or valves, would work the same way but work at least a thousand times quicker. Zuse was soon convinced it was the right approach, and this led to the design of the Z3, which probably was the first operational, general-purpose, programmable computer.

This was, however, beyond the reach of the home builder — working in a living room.

Zuse sold the idea to the Aerodynamics Research Institute, and set up a 15-man company to construct it. The machine was completed by December 1941, though it was later destroyed by Allied bombing. As Zuse recalled, the "construction of the Z3 was interrupted in 1939 when I was called up for military service. However, in my spare time and with the help of friends, I was able to complete the machine."

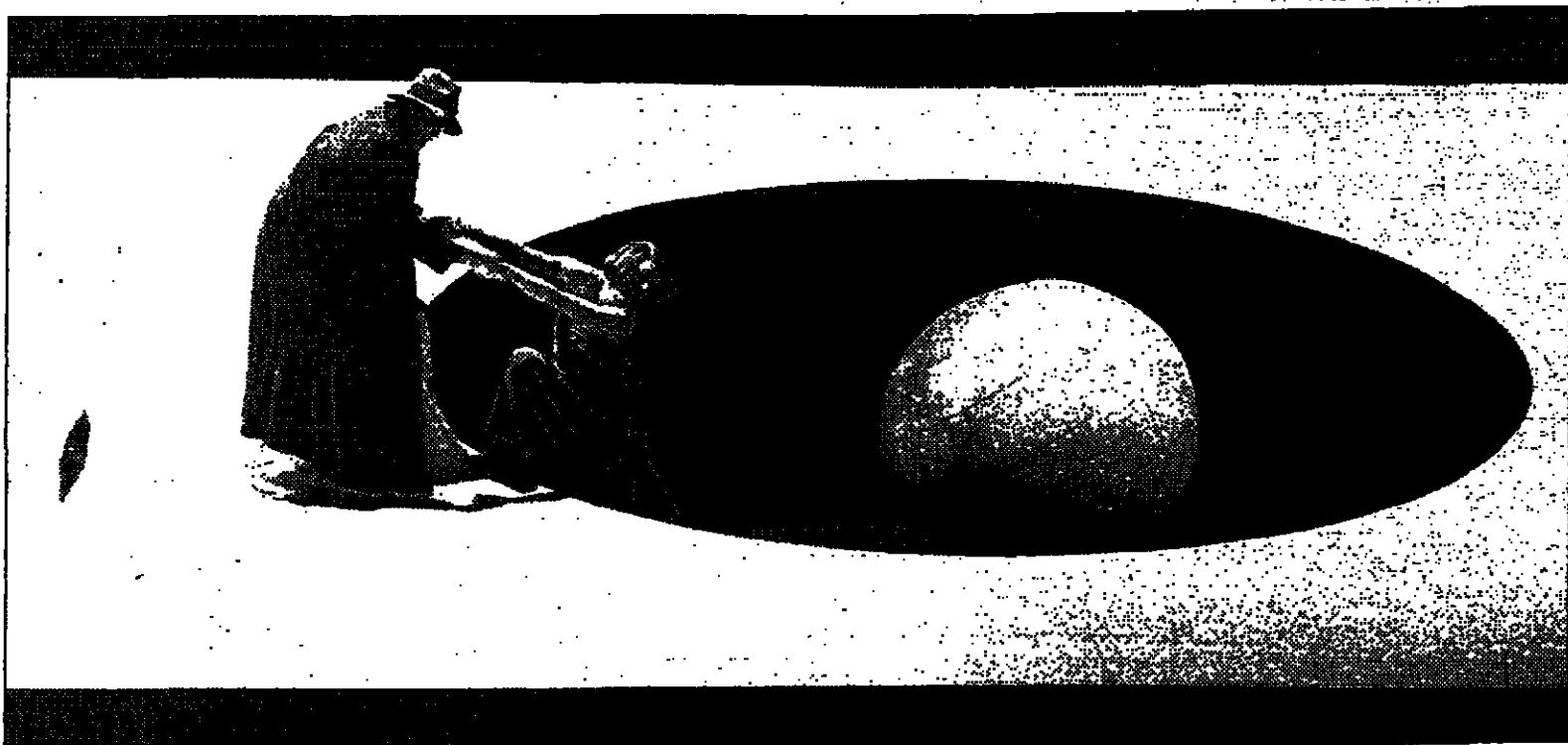
Only one of Zuse's computers survived the war: the Z4. This was started in 1942, but it was becoming increasingly difficult to find materials and in 1943, the Berlin blitz began. The machine was moved around the city to avoid air raids, and then moved to Göttingen, before finally being shifted to Hiltstein, a small village in Bavaria. After the end of the war, the Z4 was moved to Zurich in Switzerland, and in 1950, this *ziffernrechner*, or number calculator, was installed at the Federal Polytechnical Institute.

Zuse's developments attracted the attention of IBM — which seemed mainly interested in his patents — and Remington Rand, amongst others, but discussions came to nothing. In 1949, he founded his own computer company, Zuse KG, which developed a line of Z computers, and eventually employed about 1,000 people. However, short of capital, he gradually sold out to Siemens, the giant industrial conglomerate, and devoted himself to research.

In later life, Zuse received many honours, and in 1984, a research institute, the Konrad Zuse Centre for Information Technology (ZIB), was named after him. A copy of his first programme-controlled electro-mechanical digital computer, the Z3, was made in 1986 and is on display at the Deutsches Museum in Munich. A copy of the Z1 was constructed in 1988, and can be found in the Museum für Transport und Technologie in Berlin.

Jack Schofield

Konrad Zuse, scientist and inventor, born June 22, 1910; died December 18, 1995



Old flames in Siegfried... Erda and the Wanderer's final consultation as Manthey, uniquely, visualised it for Ruth Berghaus

PICTURE: MARA ROBERT

Axel Manthey

Operatic dreams and themes

OPERA designers are now concerned with the ideas and subtleties of familiar classical forms more than with the narrative surface, and the biggest influence in this revolution was undoubtedly the German, Axel Manthey, who has died of AIDS in Tübingen, aged 50.

Manthey designed Ruth Berghaus's two most important operatic productions of the 1980s — *Parsifal* and *The Ring* in Frankfurt. Klingor's magic garden in *Parsifal* was depicted as a giant closed book. The final image had Parsifal in an oversized coat, standing inside a small red circle, holding a dove in one hand with an arrowhead pointing up from the circle — making the male symbol. In *Siegfried*, the best part of Frankfurt's Ring, Wagner's Klingsor, a heavy assault on a German headquarters, which was destroyed with impenetrable precision. Taken out of the frontline on Bennett's orders, Swan was posted to an Australian transport squadron ferrying freed POWs home. He next took charge of the RAAF's 460 Squadron as a wing commander, and was earmarked to lead Australia's contingent in the planned British bombing force which would have flown against Japan — but for the surrender.

Back in England for the London victory parade, he was offered a stockbroking job by an Australian sharing his tent in Hyde Park on the eve of the London victory parade. He decided to stay in England, went to night school at the London School of Economics, and worked with dis-
tinction at Phillips and Drew until his retirement — just before the Stock Exchange big bang. In 1951 he married the widow of a RAAF officer. She and their two sons and daughter survive him.

Manthey's highly individual images, and his penchant for quotation from contemporary German art, created a widely imitated theatrical fashion. As professor for stage and film design at the Academy of Applied Arts in Vienna since 1985, he had his own school, and for the last eight years had also moved into directing.

Manthey's East German childhood strongly influenced his later career. He studied painting with Hann Trier at the Hochschule der Bildenden Künste in Berlin, but the western idea of the artist as genius standing alone, outside any social context, was not for him. He wanted to work with people, and so in 1970 took a job at the Tübingen Landestheater as a stage design assistant. He was immediately given his own assignments.

Initial commissions were in the theatre (such as in Stuttgart with Alfred Kirchner), but later he designed for opera and dance. He worked frequently with the director Jürgen Gosch (*Hamlet*, 1980; *Corneille's Horatius*, 1985; in Hamburg). His first opera was *Boulevard Solitude* staged by

Henze in a cycle of his work with Manthey. Operas he directed and designed for Stuttgart included *Ariadne auf Naxos* and Monteverdi's *Ritorno d'Ulisse*. He worked with William Forsythe there on the ballets *Time Cycle* and *Whisper Moon*, and *Say Bye Bye* with Netherlands Dance Theatre. There was also a brief period in 1978 on Volker Schlöndorff's film *Die Blechtrommel* (*The Tin Drum*).

His debut as a director in 1983 was at the Kammertheater in Stuttgart with the intensely individual *Faust* (Schiller's *Schönefuchsen* (still being revived). This introduced many of his "sign language" images: giant hands, masks, party paper crowns, symbolic cloaks, all within a spare environment where everything depicted had dramatic significance. The first play he directed was Strindberg's *Dreamplay* at Stuttgart in 1987.

He always developed his interpretations collaboratively. If the results sometimes look naive and childlike, they emerged from a firmly intellectual dialogue with director and work. A major landmark was his 1988 Stuttgart show, *Schauspieler, Tänzer, Sin-*



Manthey: defining imagery

gerin — which brought together his interests in opera, dance and straight theatre. Having discovered his AIDS infection in 1989, his last production, the Flaubert-based *Temptations of St Anthony*, at the German Theatre in Hamburg in May 1994, drew eloquently on his personal experience of illness. A heavily illustrated record of his work, *Axel Manthey: Theater*, has just been published by Residenz Verlag, Salzburg.

Tom Sutcliffe

Klaus Zehle, director of the Stuttgart Opera, writes: "What I found interesting about Axel Manthey right from the start was a special kind of concentration in his work. Examining the text or score, Axel managed to develop distinctive emblems which provided both director and the spectators with a variety of readings. This was what mattered most about him — a capacity to provide different views of a piece simultaneously. Axel's imagery defined the situation with precision. He rejected hermetic aesthetic statements. With him, ambiguity was never dissolved into a slick functionalism of closed concepts."

Axel handled reality entirely his own way. The results were never naturalistic. But the materials from which he made his sets were not disguised. Canvas was there to be painted. Polystyrene was not masked as something else. He worked theatrical magic without ever betraying a commitment to materials as themselves.

Axel Manthey, theatre designer and director, born April 10, 1945; died October 29, 1995

Peter Swan

Flying home by guesswork

WING Commander Peter Swan, who has died aged 75, was one of the most daring and effective second world war bomber pilots, who cheerfully survived a series of close encounters with death in a short but dramatic combat career.

In 1942 Swan was assigned to 139 Squadron of Bomber Command, part of Air Vice-Marshal Donald Bennett's new Night Striking Force founded the same year, and flew the fragile wooden Mosquito fighter-bombers, then the RAF's fastest aircraft, on high-speed precision raids. Mosquitoes were too quick to be easily caught by German fighters, but less likely to survive flak damage than metal aircraft.

In a pinpoint attack on Berlin, Swan's aircraft was damaged, his navigator wounded and his radio destroyed, but he flew home by guesswork. Sighting what he thought was the Lisselmeer lake in the middle of occupied Holland, the battered aircraft was caught in a single searchlight. But Swan then realised he had found the Wash and

followed the welcoming beam to make a safe landing. Bennett's next innovation was the Pathfinder Force, which dropped target flares — literally blazing a trail in advance for the main night bombing raids on German cities to follow when dropping their loads. Swan won the DSO and two DFCs for this dangerous work.

The Pathfinders Force had a strong Antipodean flavour: Bennett was Australian, so were Swan and his station commander in 1944, Group Captain Wallace Ky, who flew a mission to Hamburg as a "guest" on Swan's latest aircraft, a Lancaster heavy bomber. It was only when they had landed safely back in England that a hugely relieved Kyle mentioned a German night-fighter attack on them. Swan had been too busy to notice.

The Pathfinders were a very necessary innovation in "Bomber" Harris's command. The RAF's massed night raids, controversial to this day, were seldom accurate. Even a bomb dropped within five miles of its target was generously classed as a hit.



On wings of wood... Swan (left) and crew member in front of this Mosquito fighter-bomber

The Pathfinders, especially when they adopted armed Lancasters, greatly improved performance. Swan converted to the heavy bomber before transferring to 635 Squadron in spring 1944.

Born in London, Swan was taken to Australia by his parents. After school in Melbourne, he planned to become

a chartered accountant, but just before the war joined the Royal Australian Air Force, qualifying as a sergeant-pilot. He completed his training in Canada and joined the RAF's 105 Squadron of Blenheim light bombers in summer 1941. In April 1942 his aircraft was subjected to a mock attack by a Beaufighter which

became a real catastrophe. The other aircraft clipped the Blenheim's tail and Swan plummeted out of the sky, managing to bale out at just 500 feet, breaking both his legs. Anaesthetised for the latest in a series of operations, he was unconscious on the operating table when a Luftwaffe air raid destroyed

his hospital. He was rescued, and woke up to find a doctor's blood all over him.

Restored to duty as an officer in 1943, Swan flew nearly 100 sorties, including perilous daytime missions such as the bombing of the Bergen U-boat base in Norway. His last combat mission was as the master bomber, the principal bomber, of a heavy assault on a German headquarters, which was destroyed with impenetrable precision. Taken out of the frontline on Bennett's orders, Swan was posted to an Australian transport squadron ferrying freed POWs home. He next took charge of the RAAF's 460 Squadron as a wing commander, and was earmarked to lead Australia's contingent in the planned British bombing force which would have flown against Japan — but for the surrender.

Back in England for the London victory parade, he was offered a stockbroking job by an Australian sharing his tent in Hyde Park on the eve of the London victory parade. He decided to stay in England, went to night school at the London School of Economics, and worked with distinction at Phillips and Drew until his retirement — just before the Stock Exchange big bang. In 1951 he married the widow of a RAAF officer. She and their two sons and daughter survive him.

Dan van der Vat

Peter Harrison Swan, bomber pilot, stockbroker, born January 2, 1920; died November 27, 1995

Letter

Patrick Renshaw writes: Students like myself, who were the first generation in their families to get to university, found Hugh Clegg (*obituary*, December 12) an inspiration. His influence on the study of industrial relations, which was emerging in the postwar years at the heart of Britain's political economy, was without parallel. Those of us who aspired to write labour history owe him an enormous debt and, though he never taught me, his influence was far greater than all but one or two who did. No one equalled his

quiet air of intellectual authority and, best of all, his view that academia was just another sort of job.

I shall remember his affectionate humour, his bicycle, his family clerical, judicial or even military air in what he used to call his "agitated mace" and his love of beer. Sitting once with student friends in a pub behind Nuffield, we marvelled when Hugh came in before a college affair, downed a pint in one and still managed to dominate the conversation before bidding us goodbye.

Birthdays

Jenny Agutter, actress, 43; Michael Beattmont, Seigneur of Sark, 68; Billy Bragg, rock singer, 37; Simon Channing, chairman, London Philharmonic, 38; Malcolm Cooper, marksman, 48; Peter Criss, rock singer, 53; Charles Denton, head of drama, BBC, 58; Bo Derek, actress, 38; Bo Diddley, singer and guitarist, 67; Uri Geller, illusionist, 47; Rose Keppelwhite, former chief executive, Child Support Agency, 48; Lord (Geoffrey) Howe, former Conservative minister, 69; Lesley Judd, actress, 49; Rachel Trickett, former principal, St Hugh's College, Oxford, 72; Mitsuko Uchida, pianist, 47; Karl Wendlinger, racing driver, 27; John Wilkins, editor, the Tablet, 59.

Death Notices

HUFFORD Ryle Colin, on 13th December 1995, wonderful son of Amanda and Richard Murray and Richard on 13th December 1995. There hath passed a glory from the earth.

KEAYS, Colonel Hastings De J., died peacefully at home on Sunday 17th December 1995. Funeral Service at St Paul's Church, Marlborough, on Friday 22nd December 10am. Inquiries to L.J. Gyles and Son, 12 Church Road, Marlborough Wiltshire SN13 9BQ.

Births

FEUILLERADE Holly Emma, a lovely daughter for Peter and Alison, born in London on 13th December 1995.

HUFFORD Ryle Colin, A beautiful boy for Amanda and Richard on 13th December 1995. "Trailing clouds of glory".

LANCASHIRE, On 15 December 1995 at University College Hospital, London to Gordon and Stephen. Inquiries to Gordon and Stephen Lanchester at 10, Oscar Road, London NW10 7JH.

☛ To place your announcement telephone 0171 611 9000

Jackdaw



Of mice and men

13 FEBRUARY. To Westminster for the last two days of shooting *The Abbey* documentary. They coincide with one of the rare showings of the 13th century Cosmati pavement in the Sanctuary. Knowing it only from photographs, I'm slightly disappointed when the carpets have been rolled back to see the original. Portions of it, particularly the bits of *opus sectile* in black and white, I'd like to grub up and frame, but some of it seems crude and the colours vulgar and I've no means of knowing whether the parts I like are the original stones and the

vulgar bits of Victorian renovation or the other way round... During the day the pearly Abbey is closed I am allowed to walk across it in my stockinged feet.

10 MARCH. To Bradford for the provincial opening of *The Madness of King George*. The Lord Mayor is present and R sees him afterwards in the gents, mayoral chain round his neck, trying to have a pee. His badge of office dangles just over his flies so that he has to take great care not to piss on it. Eventually, he slings it back over his shoulder rather like a games mistress and her whistle.

1 MAY. A drunk clinging onto the railings gathers himself up to speak.
"Excuse me, squire, but how far has yesterday gone?"
"Sorry?"
"How far has yesterday gone?"
I say helpfully that it's six o'clock.
"Six o'clock? Six o'clock? What sort of fucking answer is that?"

Of course I could have said: "What sort of fucking question was it in the first place?"

29 JULY. Menerbes. Stripping some remnants this evening reminds me how, when I was writing about Getting On and The Old Country, I could never think of something for the wife to do while the husband was talking. In Getting On I think I made Polly top and tail gooseberries, and in The Old Country I even gave Bron some flowers to press (I go hot with shame at the thought). Of course, if I'd had any sense I would have seen that if it was so hard to think what it was the woman should be doing then there was something wrong with the plays, or that this was what the plays should have been about. In a way it was. Neither of the wives had seemingly ever had a job, an omission I had to some extent rectified by the time I got to Kafka's *Dick*, when the wife has at least been in employment at some period (she was an ex-nurse). But again the men did the jobs and most of the talking. In En-
Joy, which is set in Leeds, the

women do most of the talking, which is how it always used to be when I was a child. It was only when I got to London that the men started talking and the women fell silent.

8 AUGUST. A new strategy for not working: empty the fluff not only from the sieve on the dryer door, which is routine, but from the grilles on the machine itself. This involves prising off the plastic covers and poking about with a skewer to dislodge the fluff that has fallen through. A quarter of an hour can be made to pass in this way.

14 SEPTEMBER. The house next door is empty and I have got their mice. Having watched a mouse last night gambolling away among the poison pellets behind the gas oven, I find this morning that it (or a colleague) is in one of the humane traps. I have been told mice have a good homing instinct so I take the trap up to the railway bridge, give the box a shaking to disorientate the occupant and teach it a lesson: then empty it onto the railway line. I find I am a little cheered by this.

Alan Bennett files his diary of the year for the London Review of Books.

Zine medley

AFFABLE NEIGHBOUR
AGGRESSIVE GERBIL
ALPHABETIC
AFTERMATH
BABBLING IDIOT
BITING THE WAX
TADPOLE
CUSSWORD
DEBASER
DEROGATORY
REFERENCE
DOLLS KILL GIZMO
ENTER TITLE HERE
HUNGRY MAGGOT
THE LUMPEN TIMES
MOO JUICE
PERSONALITY CLOSET
GAMBLE & RAMBLE
SCHEMOOZE
VELVET GRASS
WHATEVER WORKS
WHY CAN'T I BE YOU?
WINGNUT

Titles from the Medley section of "The definitive guide to the zine revolution", Factsheet 5.

headline

FRIDA KAHLO WORLD. On

entrance, visitors will be given a chance to will have the chance to do endless self-portraits to resounding piped-in applause while "critics" overrate their work, just before "reaction" and "obscurity" set back in.

MALL WORLD. This 200-acre "mall" with shops, fast-food restaurants and fountains will look exactly like a real-life 200-acre mall with shops, fast-



Namecheck... Factsheet 5

food restaurants and fountains. In fact, it will actually be a 200-acre mall, but admission will be charged and every person entering will get a button identifying him or her as a "customer", offering them the chance to "buy" things they actually "want". Real-life teenagers will hang out and sulk while virtual senior citizens take their constitutional among nicely-dressed American "families" wandering the climate-controlled corridors looking in vain for the exit.

WALT DISNEY WORLD. For visitors to Disney World who don't have time to do all of Disney World, this replica of Disney World within Disney World itself will offer a total Disney World experience inside a five-foot-long box that takes only three days instead of weeks to go through.

MINIATURE WHITE POODLE WORLD. Perfect for overworked executives who need a break from personal and corporate responsibilities: at a sumptuous Park Avenue apartment, you get to live the

pampered life of a miniature white poodle named Pifi. Cooped over by a spindly woman in a fur coat, you get carried to lunch in a Gucci bag, while wearing a knitted pink body stocking and matching tam. Why read stock figures all day when you can lie on a pink satin couch eating scraps from La Goulue while being fondled by members of some of New York's oldest families? This is a theme park with a difference, where you can find a home and unconditional love in spite of your kibble breath and goatee eyes. Admission is steep at \$300 a day, but includes a personalised Ralph Lauren bowl, the knitted body stocking and therapy. *David Jones follows up the news that developers are to construct a Key West World in Key West for the New York Times.*

Jackdaw wants your jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4965. Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Dan Glaister

صلى الله عليه وسلم

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

FinanceGuardian

US sale nets NatWest £2bn

Paul Murphy and Mark Tran in New York

NATWEST is considering a \$650 million share buy-back programme after completing the sale of its American operation, Bancorp, to the Boston-based banking group Fleet Financial for \$3.1 billion (\$2 billion).

After months of negotiations with potential acquirers, which included Midland Bank's parent HSBC and the Bank of New York, final terms with Fleet Financial will see

the Americans paying \$2.6 billion cash down and a further \$550 million to be paid out of Bancorp's profits over eight years. A portfolio of Bancorp's corporate loans, valued at \$315 million, is being retained by NatWest, who will either sell this on separately or manage-out remaining customer relationships.

NatWest is also retaining a building in Manhattan, valued at \$65 million and housing the bank's investment banking business, NatWest Markets, in New York.

John Tugwell, the NatWest board member credited with turning around Bancorp in

1991 when it was haemorrhaging cash, is staying with the business. Bancorp will be merged with Fleet Financial's Fleet Bank of New York, with Mr Tugwell becoming president and chief executive of the new entity.

After growing worries that the sale of Bancorp had hit some sort of hitch, speculation turned yesterday to the question of how NatWest will spend the proceeds.

Over recent weeks, stock market rumours have linked NatWest with numerous potential acquisitions, including insurer, Legal & General, and fund management group,

Mercury Asset Management. But, yesterday, sector experts suggested that while a number of small acquisitions in the fields of insurance and fund management were likely, a big bid for a sector leader was unlikely.

NatWest admitted that the option of distributing surplus cash to shareholders — following the lead of its high-street banking rival Barclays earlier this year — was under review, but a spokesman stressed this was one of several avenues being explored.

For Fleet Financial, its second big purchase of the year will make it the eighth

largest bank in the US with \$80 billion in assets. A reorganisation at Fleet will see 1,300 jobs go. Earlier this year it paid \$3.7 billion for Shawmut National to become the largest bank in New England.

Acquiring Bancorp gives Fleet a presence in New Jersey, home to many large companies and well-off families, as well as New York and Connecticut. Bancorp has about 300 branches in New York and New Jersey.

Fleet has grown from a tiny Rhode Island bank to a regional power through several bold acquisitions, orchestrated by chairman Terrence

Murray, such as the 1991 purchase of the failed Bank of New England. Like many in the American banking industry, Mr Murray believes that "bunk" will be a key to survival through alliances and mergers.

The North-east of the US has seen intensive merger activity. Last week, Fleet's main rival, Bank of Boston, agreed to pay \$2 billion for BayBanks retail banks in Massachusetts. On Monday, Royal Bank of Scotland agreed to merge its Citizens Financial Group with the Bank of Ireland's First NIB Bank, the third largest bank in New England.

Notebook

The Fed gets its priorities right



Edited by Mark Milner

THE US Federal Reserve, it would appear, is less concerned than Wall Street's financial markets about the on-going row between Democratic president Bill Clinton and Republican Congress over the government deficit.

On Monday, worries about the failure to patch up a settlement over the budget sent the Dow Jones index crashing by over 100 points in part because of fears that the Fed would hold back on the next cut in interest rates in order to increase the pressure for a deal.

Yesterday, despite earlier warnings from Fed chairman Alan Greenspan about the budget impasse, the Fed signalled that it had other, wider, concerns than simply twisting arms on Capitol Hill.

The simple fact is that the US economic performance has been less robust this year than last.

As the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development noted yesterday in its survey of the world economy, real GDP growth in the US has slowed markedly this year and the unemployment rate has stabilised while cost pressures "have been largely absent since the spring".

Industrial production rose just 0.2 per cent in November, primarily because of a rise in utility output with winter's early arrival in the East and Midwest. Business inventories rose ominously last month as sales of houses and cars weakened and pre-Christmas trading has not had retailers singing all the way to the bank.

The prospect of putting pressure on the politicians to get their act together over the budget must always have been a tempting one for the Fed, but scarcely at the cost of failing to give the whole economy a timely boost.

America's central bank, if not its leading politicians, looks to have its priorities right.

Clarke dilemma

THE caution which characterises the latest assessment of the world economy by the OECD should raise the odd flicker of concern in the UK Treasury as well as on the other side of the Atlantic.

Predictably enough, the junior minister, Angela Knight, wheeled out to respond to the think tank's findings managed to select only the good bits. So, instead of leading the way in the European growth stakes, Britain's growth prospects are now "up there with Germany".

The fact is, however, that the OECD report is far less sanguine about the prospects for the UK and the industrialised West as a whole, than it was six months ago. For the OECD member countries, the overall forecasts for GDP growth this year and next have been reduced, a point of some significance if, like Mr Clarke, you are expecting net exports to boost growth.

The sluggish pace of recovery in Europe — aided and abetted by the fiscal retrenchment to hit the Maastricht conditions — will put added pressure on the domestic economy. But at home, a lot depends on how quickly firms can rid themselves of unwanted stocks. If the process is longer and deeper than the Treasury expects, growth could be closer to 2 per cent than Mr Clarke's 3 per cent next year.

Of course, there is also a risk — acknowledged by the OECD — that inflation may pick up, particularly if the housing market begins to stir next year.

But the Chancellor will have to cut rates to hit his growth forecast and keep his fingers crossed. For the danger of higher inflation if he eases policy is rather outweighed by a rather more pressing worry of handing over to Gordon Brown an economy in relatively good shape if he doesn't.

Spending options

NORTH America has not always proved the happiest of hunting grounds for British banks but National Westminster yesterday made a relatively graceful exit from US retail banking through the \$3.1 billion sale of its once loss-making Bancorp business. That may have been less than some pre-sale expectations but is at least no great distance from NatWest's investment in Bancorp over the years.

The bank's problem now is what to do with the money. There was a hint yesterday that it might give some of it back to shareholders — the board already has the authority to buy back up to 100 million shares, a limit it could reach and still leave plenty of change from the Bancorp deal.

NatWest is also looking for opportunities on the commercial and retail financial services sides, though some analysts argue that NatWest strengths are not always in the areas with the best growth prospects. Then there is investment banking. NatWest Markets has a strong presence in London but could argue that it would benefit from beefing up operations in the US and the Far East. The group can point to some modest acquisitions but it would raise bigger buys to put NatWest up with the world's best.

There has even been talk that NatWest has looked at buying a UK merchant bank with corporate finance and fund management expertise, though the field is getting thinner and (potentially) more expensive.

Picking the right options from such a broad range will not be easy, but then businesses have rarely been built on exits, however graceful.

Chancellor picks Wise Women for Treasury team

Guardian panel pair break into male bastion, writes Sarah Ryle

KATE Barker and Bridget Rosewell, yesterday stood outside the Treasury. Next month they move inside to become the first women to join one of the remaining male bastions — the Treasury's panel of economic experts.

The two women, both members of the Guardian's panel of economic experts, have now been chosen by Chancellor Kenneth Clarke to become part of a six-strong team to provide him with independent advice on the health of the UK economy.

Scepticism — largely male — about the Guardian's panel has been shared by an existing member of the Treasury panel, Gavyn Davies. But yesterday's appointments were proof that the authorities take note of the three reports produced each year by the Wise Women.

Mr Davies dubbed the Wise Women "a gimmick" and said recently that it had "sunk without trace". He was unavailable for comment yesterday.

Kate Barker, 38, who is chief economist at the Confederation of British Industry, said: "I am very pleased to be asked and very pleased to have the opportunity to take the business view and perspective into the discussion."

Bridget Rosewell, 44, who is co-founder of the economic consultancy group Business Strategies Ltd, said: "I am extremely

pleased to be invited." She added: "The Guardian offered us the opportunity to take ideas which needed discussing to a wider world. I am tremendously grateful."

The Guardian established the Wise Women group in May 1993 to provide an alternative to the Treasury's panel, known as the Wise Men, which was set up by Norman Lamont in December 1992 after sterling's ignominious exit from the exchange rate mechanism.

The Wise Women have covered issues like taxation, pensions and training.

The other members of the panel are: Brownwyn Curtis, an executive director at Deutsche Bank; Marian Bell, Treasury economist at the Royal Bank of Scotland; Janet Rutterford, head of the finance centre at the Open University Business School; Penelope Rowlett, a director of the National Economic Research Associates; and Ann Robinson, head of the National Institute of Pension Funds.

"We have had extremely interesting debates because all the women on the panel are from varied backgrounds," commented Ms Barker. "It has been a very supportive and helpful network."

Ms Barker and Ms Rosewell join the other new appointees, Martin Weale, former Cambridge University lecturer and now director of the National Institute for Economic and Social Research.

The other two members of the panel are Professor Tim Congdon of Lombard Street Research Ltd and Professor Patrick Minford of the University of Liverpool.



Moving in... Bridget Rosewell (left) and Kate Barker outside the Treasury yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK MARTIN

Row erupts on nuclear levy

Chris Barrie

AFURIOUS political row erupted last night after it emerged that a Government pledge to cut electricity bills may not be honoured in full because of the need to raise a further \$500 million from consumers to clean up elderly nuclear power stations.

As the industry watchdog, Professor Stephen Littlechild, announced that the nuclear levy — a 10 per cent surcharge on all electricity bills — would have to continue beyond official forecasts because it had failed to raise enough cash, Labour accused the Government of reneging on promises to cut £20 off the average electricity bill.

Consumer affairs spokesman Nigel Griffiths said the Government had been "caught out not telling the truth". He accused Michael Heseltine, then trade and industry secretary, of misleading MPs when Mr Heseltine had said the nuclear levy would be scrapped when the industry was privatised and as a consequence the average family would see a cut in their bill of £20 a year — a saving of 8 per cent.

This hope was dashed yesterday when Prof Littlechild — responsible for setting the levy — would continue at 10 per cent on bills from next April. Although the levy will be cut in the autumn when the nuclear industry is set for

sale, consumers will face a surcharge of 3.4 per cent to fund arrears. This reduced levy is pencilled in until April 1996.

The Major Energy Users Council expressed "disappointment" that the levy would continue.

Insisting that the Government's position was consistent, a senior minister promised swiftly last night to promise that consumers would still pay £90 less for power next year than they did last year in real terms if they included rebates from the sale of the National Grid, a £20 saving due to a price cap review, and the reduction in the levy. He insisted that a £20 saving from the levy could still be met.

Government sources also argued that Mr Heseltine had foreseen that arrears would need to be collected. The deputy prime minister had never promised a full 8 per cent off bills, but savings of "up to 8 per cent".

The problem of substantial arrears was forecast a year ago when the Guardian revealed an industry paper that admitted to a shortfall of £220 million in levy receipts. The document also disclosed that there is legal provision for arrears to be collected until the year 2002, four years after its supposed expiry date. The funds are primarily for the £28.5 billion decommissioning cost of Magnox reactors which are due to stay in state hands after privatisation next year.

Surprise for world markets as US central bank cuts interest rate

Mark Tran in New York

THE US Federal Reserve yesterday surprised world markets by cutting rates for the second time this year amid mixed signals on the pace of US economic growth for next year.

Against the backdrop of a budget deadlock and one day after a 100-point fall in the Dow Jones industrial average, the Fed's policymaking Open Market Committee reduced short-term rates by 0.25 per cent to 5.50 per cent.

Alan Greenspan, the Fed chairman, said: "Inflation has been somewhat more favourable than anticipated and this result, along with an associ-

ated moderation in inflation expectations, warrants a modest easing in monetary conditions." The Dow recovered 25 points on the news as investors banked on surging corporate profits next year and US bonds immediately rallied.

After engineering seven interest rate increases over a one-year period, the Fed changed course in July and trimmed the federal funds rate, the interest that banks charge each other for overnight loans, by a quarter point to 5.75 per cent. That reduction was the first in nearly three years.

Yesterday's Fed move came as a surprise. Analysts had grown less confident of monetary easing, given confusing

evidence on the future direction of the economy and the continued budget stalemate in Washington. Mr Greenspan indicated earlier this year that a rate cut was contingent on a credible budget deficit reduction package.

Opinion on the economy's course next year is divided. The Conference Board, a respected business group, yesterday asserted that the US economy is poised for strong growth, which should lead to a pickup in inflation.

"The Federal Reserve Board's recent success in curbing inflation may prove to be its undoing," said Gail Folsler, chief economist at the Conference Board. "By heightening financial market

expectations and pushing long-term rates lower than the fundamentals would warrant, the Fed has unwittingly set the stage for the next phase of expansion."

A preliminary estimate of the Conference Board forecasts puts real GDP growth at 3.9 per cent in the fourth quarter of 1995 and 3.1 per cent for all of 1995.

Analysts have reduced fourth-quarter earnings estimates for General Motors in a reflection of the sluggish state of the US car industry and capital equipment purchases have also eased off across a broad range of industries.

The lack of inflationary pressures has given the Fed margin for manoeuvre.

Holidays abroad to cost more as tour operators' profits go down

Ian King

FIRST Choice, Britain's third biggest tour operator, said yesterday that the average price of a holiday next summer had jumped by almost a fifth.

First Choice said there would be 1.3 million fewer holidays available next summer and that people who had booked holidays in advance for 1996 were paying, on average, 17 per cent more. But chief executive Francis Baron said that advance summer bookings were down by 14 per cent on this time last year.

Meanwhile, Going Places — part of rival holiday group Airtours — also warned of a "severe shortage" of holidays next summer.

The warnings came as First Choice showed the scars from this summer's vicious holiday price war, announcing a collapse in full year pre-tax profits from £16.3 million to £1.3 million.

But Mr Baron said the industry was set for a bumper year. Fewer holidays available next summer would allow the industry to increase prices and profit margins.

Mr Baron said 1995 had seen weak demand through-

out, with heavy price cutting and the hot summer weather in the UK combining to make one of the poorest seasons on record. Consequently, although First Choice increased its share of the UK holiday market it was forced to reduce its margins.

Last month, the company said it was making 126 full-time staff redundant, and cutting part-time staff numbers by 200 next summer.

News of the profits collapse left First Choice shares unchanged at 64p. The company gave a clear indication of its poor results in a profits warning just three weeks ago.



Police arrest Bouygues boss

Paul Webster in Paris

MARTIN BOUYGUES, chairman of the biggest partner in the Channel Tunnel construction consortium, was arrested by French police yesterday after a raid on the Bouygues group's headquarters at Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines near Paris.

Mr Bouygues was being held as part of an investigation into huge frauds involving the family of the Gaullist former mayor of Lyon, Michel Noir. Judicial sources said his group, main shareholder in the TV station, TF1, was suspected of making secret contributions to three Swiss bank accounts operated by notorious Panamanian compa-

nies and used to finance Mr Noir's electoral campaigns.

In 1990, Bouygues, the world's biggest public works firm, won a contract worth more than £700 million to build a ring road round Lyon.

Attempts to prove links between the agreement and the Swiss bank accounts were held up by legal action. Documents later released showed that £1 million had been deposited by French firms to finance Mr Noir's 1989 election campaign.

Mr Noir, a former trade minister, was given a suspended jail sentence on corruption charges this year and his son-in-law, Pierre Botton, was jailed for two years as the mastermind in a complex operation of illicit political funding and embezzlement.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.0150	France 7.33	Italy 2.410	Singapore 2.13
Austria 13.00	Germany 2.1400	Malta 0.5575	South Africa 5.47
Belgium 42.50	Greece 361.00	Netherlands 2.4100	Spain 162.00
Canada 2.0650	Hong Kong 11.70	New Zealand 2.32	Sweden 10.10
Cyprus 0.6925	India 59.81	Norway 8.51	Switzerland 1.71
Denmark 8.31	Ireland 0.5500	Portugal 208.00	Turkey 88.00
Finland 6.57	Israel 4.78	Saudi Arabia 6.75	USA 1.5050

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).



Drawing a line... sacked dockers, who say they are resisting attempts to casualise the port, on their picket line in Liverpool

PHOTOGRAPH: CHRIS THOMSON

Flying pickets chase ships by plane

Workforce/ Dock workers step up casual labour dispute, reports Seumas Milne

ON a freezing dawn quayside in Newark, New Jersey, yesterday morning, three sacked Liverpool dockers formed a picket line at the berth of the Atlantic Container Line ship, Atlantic Companion, and appealed for solidarity from the longshoremen at New York's main container port. For the second time in 12 hours, American dockers refused to work on a vessel loaded by "scab" labour on Merseyside.

Another Liverpool container ship, the Atlantic Cartier, has been promised the same treatment when it arrives in Newark tomorrow.

Under local state law, secondary boycotts are legal so long as they are mounted in response to picket lines, rather than directed by trade unions. So the British dockers' representatives of 500 locked out three months ago by the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company for walking out in support of a group of fellow workers — have given a new meaning to the term "flying picket". They chase Liverpool-loaded ships back and forth between East Coast ports by aeroplane.

For an industrial cause widely dismissed as hopeless, the dockers' campaign has succeeded in calling on a reserve of international solidarity which is causing significant damage to their employer. Sinissaries have been sent all over the world to drum up practical support.

The dispute began when 80 dockers, sacked by a contract firm, Torside, picketed the Royal Seaforth Terminal. A further 320 men, employed by

the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company, refused to cross the picket and were in turn dismissed. Three weeks later, a pay-off of £10,000 each was rejected by the sacked workers. They regard the whole affair as a backdoor attempt to reintroduce casual working. The company's decision to use contract firms to

'What has happened in Liverpool is like something from the start of the century'

hire replacement workers has only confirmed their view. The jobs were advertised in the press, causing widespread local fury.

In Canada — where strike-breaking labour of the type deployed in Liverpool is illegal — Michel Murray, president of the Montreal Longshoremen's Union, said last night the Quebecois dockers would not let their British counterparts down when a

ship owned by Morline — the one-time Soviet shipping arm — arrives in Montreal from Liverpool on Thursday. "Sometimes you have to get out of your chair. What has happened in Liverpool is like something out of the early years of the century."

Ten thousand miles away in Sydney, the Maritime Union of Australia — which has donated £15,000 to the Merseyside dockers' support fund — is refusing to handle ships trading into Liverpool.

Half a dozen ABC line vessels have already been hit by go-slows and other forms of industrial action in Sydney. Robert Coombs, the union's Sydney secretary, has warned ABC's vessels could "rust at the berth" unless they are diverted to other British ports.

The Mersey Docks and Harbour Company, which has a 13 per cent government stake and made £34 million profit last year, refuses to comment on the impact of international boycotts — or the fact that its share price has fallen sharply against a buoyant market since the dispute began, wiping £56 million of the market value of the company. But a spokesman said yesterday that all container services which had been diverted after the dispute began in September had now come back to the port and customers were satisfied with the performance of the contract workers hired to replace its discarded employees.

Nevertheless, the sacked dockers have won passionate and wide-ranging support on Merseyside, including from the churches — and industrial action at the port spread last week to the tug boatmen. At the company's initiative, the first talks to find a settlement of the 11-week unofficial

dispute were held yesterday with leaders of the Transport and General Workers' Union in London. Privately, some Liverpool dockers' leaders believe a deal which combined reinstatement for younger workers and a souped-up early retirement package for the large number of men in their fifties might be accepted — though whether the company is ready for such a public climbdown seems more doubtful.

In line with its more downbeat view of the world economy, the OECD's economists have become far gloomier about UK growth in 1996, reducing their forecast from 3.4 per cent to 2.7 per cent. In both this year and next, UK growth is expected to be 0.2 percentage points below the forecasts of 2.9 per cent and 2.6 per cent respectively for the OECD's European members.

For the OECD as a whole, growth in 1995 is now expected to be 2.4 per cent, against the 2.7 per cent projected in June. The shock

waves from the Mexican currency crisis has led to a small downward revision to prospects in North America, but the biggest problem has been the continuing recession in Japan where growth has been pulled back from 1.3 per cent to 0.3 per cent.

The think tank explained the revised UK forecast by saying that retail sales had been weak in the third quarter, suggesting a renewed slowdown.

"Consumption growth is being checked by subdued real disposable incomes, a flat housing market, high job insecurity and households' ongoing build-up in financial assets."

Over the medium term, the OECD said the world economy should benefit from lower inflation, a reduction in interest rates and more stable exchange rates.

It remained cautiously optimistic about Britain's prospects, noting: "By mid-1996, the economy could be achieving a 'soft landing' with sustained output growth, the unemployment rate falling slowly toward its natural rate, and the PSBR on track towards a sustainable medium-term position. Such a configuration would prepare the ground for sustained output growth with low inflation in 1997 and beyond."

However, it added that there was a risk in the short term that the slowdown in activity could be more acute than expected if stocks were cut back more aggressively, and in the medium term there was uncertainty about whether inflation would remain low as the spare capacity in the economy was used up.

"To some extent, the current benign inflation outlook reflects favourable cyclical influences. But there is increasing evidence that the structural reforms over the past decade are contributing to a more flexible and less-inflation-prone economy."

Shadow Chancellor Gordon Brown said: "The organisation that this Government thinks so highly of says they are set to miss both their growth and inflation targets."

News in brief

Glaxo set to raise \$1 bn from US sale

GLAXO Wellcome will raise \$1 billion (\$640,000) from the sale of Wellcome's non-prescription medicines, including Calpol and Actifed, to its joint venture marketing partner, the US drug company Warner-Lambert. The products will continue to be made by Glaxo Wellcome until 1999.

The sale will liquidate the Warner Wellcome joint venture marketing company but the separate joint venture between Glaxo and Warner-Lambert will continue, with responsibility for marketing "switch products" such as the ulcer drug Zantac, which have moved to non-prescription status.

The continuing joint venture will also take over from Warner Wellcome sales of Wellcome's cold sore product, Zovirax. The value of the stake in Warner Wellcome was included in Glaxo Wellcome's accounts at just £23 million. Glaxo's share of the joint venture's first-half profits was £28 million. — *Roger Coote*

Textiles sales fall

COURTAULDS Textiles, the Marks & Spencer underwear supplier and owner of the Goswami, Bevel and Aristoc brands, warned yesterday that profits would be down this year because of the hot summer, high raw material prices and the troubles in France. First-half trading profits had grown by almost a fifth, though the company had warned then that most of its profits arose in the pre-Christmas season.

Now it has confirmed that trading deteriorated from July and the recent improvement in UK sales had been offset by poor business in the US and France. The situation had not been helped by the continued slump in household textiles arising out of the sluggish housing market. — *Roger Coote*

Opel relents on VW ban

ADAM OPEL, the German unit of General Motors, said it has given up trying to block former employees from working at rival Volkswagen, even though the espionage case against VW continues. "Considering the time that has passed since the people moved to Wolfsburg [VW's HQ], Opel's legal action couldn't have fulfilled its original purpose of limiting damages," the company said in a statement.

Opel charged VW with industrial espionage after Jose Ignacio Lopez de Arriortua, GM's former purchasing chief, joined Volkswagen in 1993, taking seven other Opel employees with him. German prosecutors will decide next year whether to file charges. Volkswagen and Lopez deny any wrongdoing. — *Bloomberg*

CTR attacks debt mountain

PRE-TAX losses at Central Transport Rental, the group formerly known as Tiphook, have worsened from £7.2 million to £12.3 million, the company said yesterday. But CTR, which almost collapsed this time last year, said operating profits had jumped by 47 per cent to £12.3 million.

Chairman Ian Clubb said negotiations had begun on how to reduce CTR's £483 million debt mountain. But he warned shareholders that the restructuring was likely to include converting some of the debt into new CTR shares, diluting the stakes of existing investors. The company's shares closed down 2½p at 13½p. — *Ian King*

MBO at sports goods firm

THE Dunlop Slazenger sporting goods group — which makes Dunlop, Slazenger, Masfati and Carlton brand sporting goods, as well as distributing Puma products in the UK — is being sold to its management for £200 million. Its products are promoted and used by leading sportsmen and women including Greg Norman, Graham Gooch, Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, Peter Beardsley and Linford Christie.

The group employs 3,000 people in 10 factories and 23 sales offices around the world. Dunlop Slazenger management, based in Leatherhead, Surrey, is being backed by the CINVen venture capital group. The sale was triggered by the decision of BTR, Britain's largest industrial company, to focus on core businesses. — *Tony May*

PolyGram hit by profits warning

Ian King

POLYGRAM, the Dutch film and music group which owns the Motown and A&M record labels, yesterday saw 1.5 billion guilders (£600 million) wiped off its market value, after warning that profits this year will be flat.

PolyGram, whose artists include U2, the Cranberries, Janet Jackson and Elton John, blamed the strength of the Dutch guilder and delays in its release schedule for the setback.

The profits warning came as a shock to the Amsterdam market, traditionally a big fan of PolyGram, and the shares fell 8.3 guilders (33½p) to 81.5 guilders on the news.

Shares of the electronics conglomerate Philips, which owns 75 per cent of PolyGram, were also hit.

In a statement, PolyGram chief executive Alain Levy said the company had suffered "a cold spell" during the second half of 1995.

He added: "Any creative company can have seasonal setbacks, and we can expect PolyGram to continue to deliver its pattern of success in the future."

Mr Levy said there had been delays in getting new

PolyGram releases into the shops, hitting sales during the crucial pre-Christmas period.

Although Mr Levy declined to identify which albums were affected, the list is thought to include new releases by artists like Ace of Base, Bryan Adams, Boyz II Men and Melissa Etheridge.

PolyGram was also hit by the failure of its loss-making film division to come up with box office hits this year on the scale of last year's *Four Weddings and a Funeral*.

The company, whose releases this year have included cult successes like

The Usual Suspects and Shallow Grave, refused to say which titles had failed to bring in the expected box office receipts.

However, Mr Levy insisted that PolyGram would be back on track for an improvement in profits in 1996.

He said: "We have a strong track record, we have stability of top management, we are breaking new talent and we have a more robust release schedule for the coming year."

New releases planned include albums by Sting and U2, and films featuring Robert de Niro and Tim Robbins.

After the pay-outs, power game faces up to an uncertain future

Outlook '96/Continuing our series looking forward and back, Chris Barrie sees difficult times ahead for gas and electricity

THE electricity industry is ending the year as it began, with bumper pay-outs for investors, but 1996 is set to be dominated by political uncertainty and greater instability in companies' financial performance and share price.

Yesterday National Power became the latest power firm to cheer investors by spending hefty sums on buying back shares, announcing it had a short list of buyers for surplus plant and hinting at further share purchases.

Yesterday's buy-back of 57 million shares — about 4.4 per cent of the issued share capital — cost National Power about £244 million and is designed to boost the value of remaining shares. It still has permission to buy back a further 5.6 per cent of its shares. The generator had already bought 7.6 per cent when the Government sold its remaining stake earlier this year.

National Power added that it was on course to complete the sale or leasing of 4,000 megawatts of coal-fired generating plant by the end of the financial year. It has a short list of potential buyers — owners of regional electricity companies Eastern Group — and three US firms, Enron, Applied Energy Services and Mission Energy.

However, National Power's announcements did little to

bolster its share price. City scepticism may be due to the way investors have become accustomed to being offered such large dollops of cash. The last two weeks have seen a series of announcements by regional electricity companies of rapid cost-cutting and higher pay-outs to shareholders.

Last week East Midlands awarded shareholders a special dividend of 120p a share costing £238 million, while London handed out a 21 per cent rise in its interim pay-out as well as a 100p a share special dividend. Southern Electric gave shareholders a £800 million package that included shares in the National Grid. In the same week Yorkshire Electricity promised a second special dividend of 100p a share.

One analyst said results like these showed how the companies had "shrugged off" the impact of price controls imposed by industry watchdog, Professor Stephen Littlechild. Although the pace of job-cutting had quickened under takeover stimulus, the regional electricity companies had confirmed their ability to squeeze out costs.

Under pressure to justify the cost of buying a regional electricity company (REC), successful bidders are now

swinging the axe. North West Water, Welsh Water and Scottish Power need to axe jobs to lift productivity.

Mike Jeram, head of electricity at the Unison trade union, says so REC share prices could suffer.

That goes twice over for utility shares beyond the RECs. Profits at the National Grid are under scrutiny by Prof Littlechild. Meanwhile National Power and PowerGen face a tricky Monopolies Commission inquiry into plans to buy Southern Electric and Midlands Electricity — just as profit margins come under pressure and new generating companies enter the market. More problematic still is British Gas's future as it strives to renegotiate contracts worth £40 billion a year with oil and gas companies. The contracts are proving a crippling expense as the group is committed to taking gas from offshore fields or faced with paying hefty financial penalties. The gas price under the terms of the contract is higher than the current spot price while the company's market share is falling.

Gas producers have so far taken a tough stance and British Gas has indicated that it will harden its stance on the matter if necessary. But faced with the formidable opposition of the oil and gas companies, the embattled company may find it an impossible goal unless aided by Government.

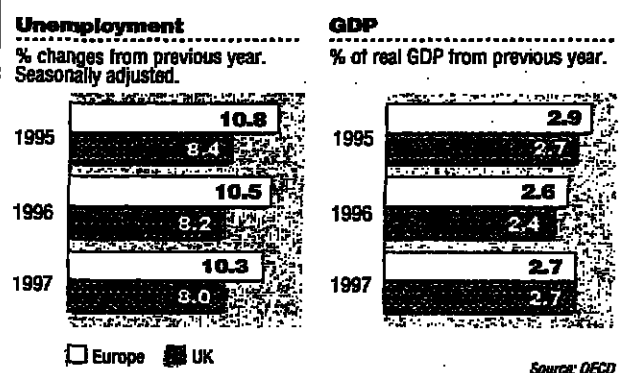
Northern's ability to deliver on its promise of higher dividends will hinge in part on politics. If Labour imposes a windfall tax on the utilities, Northern may be unable to

deliver its target of a 7 per cent rise a year in pay-outs.

As the market focuses on this and other political risks — such as change to the way regulators impose price and profit controls — so REC share prices could suffer.

Tomorrow: The media

How we compare



opinions are POLES apart

LAPHROAIG
no half measures.

سكان من الامم

Soccer

League goes to law over Bosman

Martin Thorpe

THE Premier League is to seek legal advice on the implications of the Bosman ruling, which could, for instance, lead to clubs fielding as many non-European Union players as they want in this Saturday's league games.

Such is the confusion surrounding the precise meaning of last Friday's European Court of Justice pronouncement that the Premier League will consult legal counsel this Friday and direct its clubs accordingly. In the meantime the Premier League is advising clubs to abide by the old rules regarding transfers and the playing of foreigners.

Central to conflicting interpretations of the Bosman ruling is a spat between the European Commission and soccer's European governing body Uefa.

The Bosman ruling appears to clear the way for teams to field as many non-European Union players as they like in domestic competitions. But last weekend Uefa issued a statement saying that the ruling would not affect the number of foreigners a team could field in European competition, currently three plus two "assimilated" players.

Uefa argued that players were not playing as individuals in European cups but representing their countries.

Now the European Union has scotched that interpretation. "From now on, nationality restrictions are illegal in European-level club competitions," Padraig Flynn, a European commissioner, said yesterday. "I expect those affected to take the necessary steps to change their rules."

This is a direct shot across Uefa's bows, warning it to stop dragging its heels over this matter and stop inventing spurious interpretations of the ruling.

Flynn's office declined to say what actions the commission would take if its wishes were not heeded.

It is partly because of the lack of a clear lead from Uefa that the Premier League is seeking independent advice. "Our view is that the current rules still apply and we expect our clubs to abide by them," said a Premier League spokesman, Mike Lee. "But we are consulting counsel so we can provide our clubs with proper legal advice based on the law as it stands and not on rushed interpretations."

If that advice says clubs can play unlimited foreigners immediately, then one beneficiary will be Manchester City's German goalkeeper, Uwe Rösler. With his fellow countryman Uwe Rösler and the Georgian Giorgi Kinkladze already in the City team, Rösler was expected to be dropped to make way for another third foreigner, the Danish striker Ronnie Ekelund, who has just joined City on loan.

Gary Flitcroft and Steve Lomas cannot play for City against Chelsea on Saturday because they are suspended, so Ekelund is expected to make his debut. It will be a major surprise if City's manager Alan Ball discards either Rösler, who scored his first Premiership goal in 16 matches in the 1-1 draw with Nottingham Forest on Monday, or the in-form Kinkladze, so Rösler, who has played in all 20 league and cup games this season, may have to stand aside for Tony Cotton.

O'Neill burns his Norwich bridges

Ian Ross

MARTIN O'NEILL moved from outsider to front runner in Leicester's search for a manager yesterday when he confirmed his decision to resign from Norwich.

A day of rumour and counter-rumour began with reports that O'Neill had attempted to withdraw the letter of resignation he unexpectedly submitted to the Carrow Road board on Sunday morning.

Talk of compromise between O'Neill and the Norwich chairman Robert Chase hardened the likelihood of the former Everton manager Mike Walker becoming Frank McGehee's successor at Filbert Street. Confusion descended again, however, when O'Neill reaffirmed his intention of leaving Norwich, only six months after his much-heralded arrival.

Norwich reluctantly confirmed this in a brief statement which read: "Club secretary Andrew Neville spoke to Martin O'Neill on Monday about the possibility of him continuing as team manager. It was a matter which the club was keen to pursue but after further consideration Martin was not prepared to change his mind about tendering his resignation."

Confirmation of O'Neill's departure prompted several unemployed managers of experience to contact Norwich and put themselves forward as successors.

Names at the top of an already fast-expanding list include O'Neill's Tottenham manager, and Dave Bassett, who parted company with Sheffield United last week.

Rather surprisingly another leading contender will be Gary Megson, who acted as Norwich's caretaker manager



Walker... still waiting

in the month leading up to O'Neill's summer appointment. Megson is currently assistant to Bradford City's manager, Chris Kamara, but would not hesitate to return to Carrow Road.

Luton hope to name their new manager before Saturday's home game with Huddersfield, although the fact that Walker has also come under discussion as a successor to Terry Westley complicates Luton's choice.

Vinny Samways's forgettable spell with Everton may well end in the new year with a move to Wolves.

Samways joined the struggling First Division club on a month's loan yesterday and if he impresses — and Wolves can meet an asking price of around £1.4 million — he will make permanent his move to Molineux.

Since joining Everton from Tottenham in a £2.2 million deal in August last year, Samways has failed to impress and has started only six senior games for the Merseyside club this season.

Sheffield United's new manager Howard Kendall made his first foray into the transfer market yesterday when he hired the Manchester City defender Michael York across the Pennines for £350,000.

THE FIRST BRITISH CLUB TO WIN THE EUROPEAN CUP IS BEING RE-INVENTED



Master of all he surveys... Fergus McCann checks out the progress at the half-completed Celtic Park

PHOTOGRAPH BY MURDO MacLEOD

Celtic vision swings straight into gear

Patrick Glenn on Fergus McCann, the Scots-Canadian pioneer impressively implementing a five-year plan at the Glasgow club

THEY all laughed at Wilbur Wright and his brother when they said man could fly; they told Marconi that wireless was a phoney. It was the same story at Celtic Park.

They guffawed at Fergus McCann too, when he said that the club could be transformed from a dilapidated concern on the brink of bankruptcy into a multi-million pound operation capable of challenging Rangers' supremacy in Scotland.

But in the 21 months since the little Scots-Canadian pulled the Parkhead club back from the brink of the financial abyss, much of his vision has been realised.

Like the other great pioneers, McCann has devoted an inordinate amount of time and energy to his project. Unlike them, however, he also supported his conviction with £10 million, reputedly half of his personal fortune, to begin the process that has made the club one of the most soundly financed in the United Kingdom.

Other individuals invested £3 million in a share issue among supporters raised £2.8 million, and £4 million of the stock was taken by Dermot Desmond, the Irish software magnate. The revolution brought a share-capital base of £25.5 million.

Under the old regime, a collection of families whose control was based on dynastic principles rather than business sense, the equity base

had stood at £20,000 for more than a century. Expatiates making the pilgrimage to Celtic Park would not recognise the place. It is still in the same location but is now an edifice in the unflattering east end of the city. The 26,000-seat North Stand was opened at the start of the season, having been completed at a cost of £17.5 million. Work has already begun on the East Stand — the "Rangers end" — which will accommodate another 13,000 spectators, bringing the capacity up to 47,000.

Both stands will have been built with the resources of a mortgage. "There are some borrowings," said McCann, "but only set-term borrowings, not a mortgage."

When the loop is completed with the West Stand in three years, the ground will hold 60,000 and incorporate a conference centre, office space, restaurants, hotel rooms and sundry other earners.

Yet McCann has appointed and led a hard-working team from fellow directors down to labourers, under seemingly constant criticism from many quarters of a media who have been sceptical at best.

Much of the ridicule, of course, has stemmed from ignorance. There was also impatience on the part of some of the supporters, who wanted the club, and specifically the team, alchemised overnight.

"Oh, I haven't minded too much of the sniping," said McCann. "Some things do bother me, particularly where there is unfairness and lack of integrity among those doing the criticising."

But where the supporters are concerned you have to remember that their connection with the club is emotionally driven. "That creates a lot of problems. I get sacks of mail here with complaints about very trivial matters. Dealing with that is time-consuming, but you should recognise that it is the same emotionally driven impulses which caused 10,000 of them to become shareholders and help refinance this company."

"I think big crowds are important here, and not just for the money. I would far rather have high attendances at medium admission rates than low crowds at high prices. One of the fundamental objectives when we began here was to make this place more customer-friendly, and we're getting there."

The most important single element in the regeneration of any club is, of course, the team. Celtic's progress this season under Tommy Burns and Billy Stark, the management pairing, has not only attracted critical acclaim for their style but taken them to the heels of the Premier Division leaders Rangers. It is Celtic's most promising league challenge in seven years and Burns has spent well, using just over £7 million to bring in seven players.

The manager, however, will be unable to hold on to his chairman. McCann has said from the start that he will sell his shares after five years, in the hope of making a modest profit, and leave the club in safe hands.

Having forsaken lifelong bachelorhood for marriage and a baby daughter in the past year, the 54-year-old dynamo has other priorities. "My wife says my stay here won't get to be five years and a day," he means it.

team. Celtic's progress this season under Tommy Burns and Billy Stark, the management pairing, has not only attracted critical acclaim for their style but taken them to the heels of the Premier Division leaders Rangers. It is Celtic's most promising league challenge in seven years and Burns has spent well, using just over £7 million to bring in seven players.

The manager, however, will be unable to hold on to his chairman. McCann has said from the start that he will sell his shares after five years, in the hope of making a modest profit, and leave the club in safe hands.

Having forsaken lifelong bachelorhood for marriage and a baby daughter in the past year, the 54-year-old dynamo has other priorities. "My wife says my stay here won't get to be five years and a day," he means it.

The most important single element in the regeneration of any club is, of course, the team. Celtic's progress this season under Tommy Burns and Billy Stark, the management pairing, has not only attracted critical acclaim for their style but taken them to the heels of the Premier Division leaders Rangers. It is Celtic's most promising league challenge in seven years and Burns has spent well, using just over £7 million to bring in seven players.

The manager, however, will be unable to hold on to his chairman. McCann has said from the start that he will sell his shares after five years, in the hope of making a modest profit, and leave the club in safe hands.

Having forsaken lifelong bachelorhood for marriage and a baby daughter in the past year, the 54-year-old dynamo has other priorities. "My wife says my stay here won't get to be five years and a day," he means it.

The most important single element in the regeneration of any club is, of course, the team. Celtic's progress this season under Tommy Burns and Billy Stark, the management pairing, has not only attracted critical acclaim for their style but taken them to the heels of the Premier Division leaders Rangers. It is Celtic's most promising league challenge in seven years and Burns has spent well, using just over £7 million to bring in seven players.

The manager, however, will be unable to hold on to his chairman. McCann has said from the start that he will sell his shares after five years, in the hope of making a modest profit, and leave the club in safe hands.

Having forsaken lifelong bachelorhood for marriage and a baby daughter in the past year, the 54-year-old dynamo has other priorities. "My wife says my stay here won't get to be five years and a day," he means it.

The most important single element in the regeneration of any club is, of course, the team. Celtic's progress this season under Tommy Burns and Billy Stark, the management pairing, has not only attracted critical acclaim for their style but taken them to the heels of the Premier Division leaders Rangers. It is Celtic's most promising league challenge in seven years and Burns has spent well, using just over £7 million to bring in seven players.

The manager, however, will be unable to hold on to his chairman. McCann has said from the start that he will sell his shares after five years, in the hope of making a modest profit, and leave the club in safe hands.

Having forsaken lifelong bachelorhood for marriage and a baby daughter in the past year, the 54-year-old dynamo has other priorities. "My wife says my stay here won't get to be five years and a day," he means it.

The most important single element in the regeneration of any club is, of course, the team. Celtic's progress this season under Tommy Burns and Billy Stark, the management pairing, has not only attracted critical acclaim for their style but taken them to the heels of the Premier Division leaders Rangers. It is Celtic's most promising league challenge in seven years and Burns has spent well, using just over £7 million to bring in seven players.

The manager, however, will be unable to hold on to his chairman. McCann has said from the start that he will sell his shares after five years, in the hope of making a modest profit, and leave the club in safe hands.

Having forsaken lifelong bachelorhood for marriage and a baby daughter in the past year, the 54-year-old dynamo has other priorities. "My wife says my stay here won't get to be five years and a day," he means it.

Hodgson dumped as Switzerland coach

Russell Thomas

ROY HODGSON, the English coach who moulded Switzerland into a footballing force, was dumped last night by his adoptive country.

The end of Hodgson's reign came less than six months before the Swiss compete in their first European Championship finals.

Now, the experienced Portuguese coach Artur Jorge will lead Switzerland in the tournament opener against England at Wembley on June 8.

Hodgson, who last year led the Swiss to their first World Cup finals since 1954, expressed his desire to continue in charge at Euro '96 when he moved to

Italy to become Internazionale's coach two months ago. The Swiss federation accepted that wish, with some reluctance, but last night his misgivings about his part-time leadership materialised as he ousted the Londoner and replaced him with Jorge, who is free to devote all his time to the national team.

Hodgson, who last year led the Swiss to their first World Cup finals since 1954, expressed his desire to continue in charge at Euro '96 when he moved to

Italy to become Internazionale's coach two months ago. The Swiss federation accepted that wish, with some reluctance, but last night his misgivings about his part-time leadership materialised as he ousted the Londoner and replaced him with Jorge, who is free to devote all his time to the national team.

Hodgson, who last year led the Swiss to their first World Cup finals since 1954, expressed his desire to continue in charge at Euro '96 when he moved to

Italy to become Internazionale's coach two months ago. The Swiss federation accepted that wish, with some reluctance, but last night his misgivings about his part-time leadership materialised as he ousted the Londoner and replaced him with Jorge, who is free to devote all his time to the national team.

Hodgson, who last year led the Swiss to their first World Cup finals since 1954, expressed his desire to continue in charge at Euro '96 when he moved to

Italy to become Internazionale's coach two months ago. The Swiss federation accepted that wish, with some reluctance, but last night his misgivings about his part-time leadership materialised as he ousted the Londoner and replaced him with Jorge, who is free to devote all his time to the national team.

Hodgson, who last year led the Swiss to their first World Cup finals since 1954, expressed his desire to continue in charge at Euro '96 when he moved to

Italy to become Internazionale's coach two months ago. The Swiss federation accepted that wish, with some reluctance, but last night his misgivings about his part-time leadership materialised as he ousted the Londoner and replaced him with Jorge, who is free to devote all his time to the national team.

Hodgson, who last year led the Swiss to their first World Cup finals since 1954, expressed his desire to continue in charge at Euro '96 when he moved to

Italy to become Internazionale's coach two months ago. The Swiss federation accepted that wish, with some reluctance, but last night his misgivings about his part-time leadership materialised as he ousted the Londoner and replaced him with Jorge, who is free to devote all his time to the national team.

Hodgson, who last year led the Swiss to their first World Cup finals since 1954, expressed his desire to continue in charge at Euro '96 when he moved to

Italy to become Internazionale's coach two months ago. The Swiss federation accepted that wish, with some reluctance, but last night his misgivings about his part-time leadership materialised as he ousted the Londoner and replaced him with Jorge, who is free to devote all his time to the national team.

Hodgson, who last year led the Swiss to their first World Cup finals since 1954, expressed his desire to continue in charge at Euro '96 when he moved to

Italy to become Internazionale's coach two months ago. The Swiss federation accepted that wish, with some reluctance, but last night his misgivings about his part-time leadership materialised as he ousted the Londoner and replaced him with Jorge, who is free to devote all his time to the national team.

Hodgson, who last year led the Swiss to their first World Cup finals since 1954, expressed his desire to continue in charge at Euro '96 when he moved to

Italy to become Internazionale's coach two months ago. The Swiss federation accepted that wish, with some reluctance, but last night his misgivings about his part-time leadership materialised as he ousted the Londoner and replaced him with Jorge, who is free to devote all his time to the national team.

Hodgson, who last year led the Swiss to their first World Cup finals since 1954, expressed his desire to continue in charge at Euro '96 when he moved to

Italy to become Internazionale's coach two months ago. The Swiss federation accepted that wish, with some reluctance, but last night his misgivings about his part-time leadership materialised as he ousted the Londoner and replaced him with Jorge, who is free to devote all his time to the national team.

Hodgson, who last year led the Swiss to their first World Cup finals since 1954, expressed his desire to continue in charge at Euro '96 when he moved to

Italy to become Internazionale's coach two months ago. The Swiss federation accepted that wish, with some reluctance, but last night his misgivings about his part-time leadership materialised as he ousted the Londoner and replaced him with Jorge, who is free to devote all his time to the national team.

Hodgson, who last year led the Swiss to their first World Cup finals since 1954, expressed his desire to continue in charge at Euro '96 when he moved to

Italy to become Internazionale's coach two months ago. The Swiss federation accepted that wish, with some reluctance, but last night his misgivings about his part-time leadership materialised as he ousted the Londoner and replaced him with Jorge, who is free to devote all his time to the national team.

Hodgson, who last year led the Swiss to their first World Cup finals since 1954, expressed his desire to continue in charge at Euro '96 when he moved to

Italy to become Internazionale's coach two months ago. The Swiss federation accepted that wish, with some reluctance, but last night his misgivings about his part-time leadership materialised as he ousted the Londoner and replaced him with Jorge, who is free to devote all his time to the national team.

Hodgson, who last year led the Swiss to their first World Cup finals since 1954, expressed his desire to continue in charge at Euro '96 when he moved to

Italy to become Internazionale's coach two months ago. The Swiss federation accepted that wish, with some reluctance, but last night his misgivings about his part-time leadership materialised as he ousted the Londoner and replaced him with Jorge, who is free to devote all his time to the national team.

Hodgson, who last year led the Swiss to their first World Cup finals since 1954, expressed his desire to continue in charge at Euro '96 when he moved to

Italy to become Internazionale's coach two months ago. The Swiss federation accepted that wish, with some reluctance, but last night his misgivings about his part-time leadership materialised as he ousted the Londoner and replaced him with Jorge, who is free to devote all his time to the national team.

Hodgson, who last year led the Swiss to their first World Cup finals since 1954, expressed his desire to continue in charge at Euro '96 when he moved to

Italy to become Internazionale's coach two months ago. The Swiss federation accepted that wish, with some reluctance, but last night his misgivings about his part-time leadership materialised as he ousted the Londoner and replaced him with Jorge, who is free to devote all his time to the national team.

Hodgson, who last year led the Swiss to their first World Cup finals since 1954, expressed his desire to continue in charge at Euro '96 when he moved to

Italy to become Internazionale's coach two months ago. The Swiss federation accepted that wish, with some reluctance, but last night his misgivings about his part-time leadership materialised as he ousted the Londoner and replaced him with Jorge, who is free to devote all his time to the national team.

Hodgson, who last year led the Swiss to their first World Cup finals since 1954, expressed his desire to continue in charge at Euro '96 when he moved to

Italy to become Internazionale's coach two months ago. The Swiss federation accepted that wish, with some reluctance, but last night his misgivings about his part-time leadership materialised as he ousted the Londoner and replaced him with Jorge, who is free to devote all his time to the national team.

Hodgson, who last year led the Swiss to their first World Cup finals since 1954, expressed his desire to continue in charge at Euro '96 when he moved to

Italy to become Internazionale's coach two months ago. The Swiss federation accepted that wish, with some reluctance, but last night his misgivings about his part-time leadership materialised as he ousted the Londoner and replaced him with Jorge, who is free to devote all his time to the national team.

Hodgson, who last year led the Swiss to their first World Cup finals since 1954, expressed his desire to continue in charge at Euro '96 when he moved to

Italy to become Internazionale's coach two months ago. The Swiss federation accepted that wish, with some reluctance, but last night his misgivings about his part-time leadership materialised as he ousted the Londoner and replaced him with Jorge, who is free to devote all his time to the national team.

Hodgson, who last year led the Swiss to their first World Cup finals since 1954, expressed his desire to continue in charge at Euro '96 when he moved to

Italy to become Internazionale's coach two months ago. The Swiss federation accepted that wish, with some reluctance, but last night his misgivings about his part-time leadership materialised as he ousted the Londoner and replaced him with Jorge, who is free to devote all his time to the national team.

Hodgson, who last year led the Swiss to their first World Cup finals since 1954, expressed his desire to continue in charge at Euro '96 when he moved to

Italy to become Internazionale's coach two months ago. The Swiss federation accepted that wish, with some reluctance, but last night his misgivings about his part-time leadership materialised as he ousted the Londoner and replaced him with Jorge, who is free to devote all his time to the national team.

Hodgson, who last year led the Swiss to their first World Cup finals since 1954, expressed his desire to continue in charge at Euro '96 when he moved to

Italy to become Internazionale's coach two months ago. The Swiss federation accepted that wish, with some reluctance, but last night his misgivings about his part-time leadership materialised as he ousted the Londoner and replaced him with Jorge, who is free to devote all his time to the national team.

Hodgson, who last year led the Swiss to their first World Cup finals since 1954, expressed his desire to continue in charge at Euro '96 when he moved to

Italy to become Internazionale's coach two months ago. The Swiss federation accepted that wish, with some reluctance, but last night his misgivings about his part-time leadership materialised as he ousted the Londoner and replaced him with Jorge, who is free to devote all his time to the national team.

Hodgson, who last year led the Swiss to their first World Cup finals since 1954, expressed his desire to continue in charge at Euro '96 when he moved to

Italy to become Internazionale's coach two months ago. The Swiss federation accepted that wish, with some reluctance, but last night his misgivings about his part-time leadership materialised as he ousted the Londoner and replaced him with Jorge, who is free to devote all his time to the national team.

Hodgson, who last year led the Swiss to their first World Cup finals since 1954, expressed his desire to continue in charge at Euro '96 when he moved to

Teamtalk

The Independent News Reports Service
Call 0891 33 77+

Arsenal	06	Ipswich Town	19	Sheffield United	15
Aston Villa	11	Leeds United	09	Sheffield Wed.	14
Birm. City	24	Leicester City	35	Southampton	20
Blackburn	21	Liverpool	04	Stoke City	30
Bolton	26	Man. City	02	Sunderland	27
Brentford	34	Man. United	01	Tottenham Hot.	07
Burnley	31	Middlesbrough	23	West Ham	12
Chelsea	08	Millwall	29	Wimbledon	25
Coventry City	17	Newcastle Utd	16	Wolves	26
Derby County	28	Norwich City	13	Cardiff	09
Everton	05	Notdm. Forest	13	Rangers	10
Hull, Town	32	QPR	25		

Sport
© Guardian

Calls cost 55p/min. cheap rate, 45p/min. at 24 other times. Supplied by INS, 15 Mark Lane, Leeds LS1 5LE. Helpline 0173 7473

سكرا من الامم

Dunwoody gets his Man, page 13
Bosman puts FA in a spin, page 14

Celtic's five-year march, page 14
Union's union man, page 15

SportsGuardian

FIRST DIVISION CLUBS GET THEIR £1M BUT AT A PRICE

Promotion strings to TV cash

Martin Thorpe

FIRST Division clubs have been told they will receive for the next five years. "Part of the money being discussed with the Premier League will be on offer to the First Division if there is a reduction in the promotion and relegation numbers between the two competitions," said Reames. "I think, for sure, they will be looking to reduce it to two, and there are people who would like to see it at one."

The Football League board and the Premier League met last week and plan another meeting early next month to discuss the situation further. "They [the Premiership] wish to wish to work with us extremely closely," said

Reames. "I think they recognise there is a need for them to put money down into the Football League." The Premier League is eager to subsidise the Football League in order to keep the grass-roots strong in what it calls "enlightened self-interest". The other part of any Premier subsidy would be directed towards supporting youth-development schemes at the smallest and poorest league clubs.

Detailed figures revealed to the Guardian yesterday, however, show just how much even the poorest club will benefit financially from the Football League's £125 million, five-year TV deal with Sky. Including other commercial

revenue, the Football League has told its 72 clubs that a total of £35 million a year is available from next season. Of this the First Division will receive £21,150,000 a season, an increase of 105 per cent on what its clubs currently pocket from commercial revenue.

How much each club will receive each season will depend on where it finishes in the table. The First Division champions will receive a basic payment of £300,000, down to the bottom club which will get £631,000. The Second Division will receive a total of £23,253,600, a 68 per cent increase on this season, with the champions receiving £385,000 and the bot-

Still a racket with strings attached

Vincent Hanna

THE Jean-Marc Bosman case has thrown football into chaos — or so I'm told. Shocking business. Foreign courts sticking their forks into our dinners again.

Please try not to weep many tears for the football authorities. Especially UEFA. It had it coming. I want to dwell on just one aspect of the case, the transfer of players. The Bosman affair may have ended an immoral and hypocritical racket; the only commercial activity in the UK where people are still bought and sold as chattels. "To anyone not hardened to acceptance of the practice it would seem inhuman and incongruous to the spirit of a national sport," said Mr Justice Wilberforce in his 1963 judgment in the case of George Eastham, who was treated very like Bosman. Eastham had a contract with Newcastle United which ran out. He tried to get another job, the club said no and forcibly "retained" him at a reduced salary of £17 a week. The High Court held that he was unlawfully restrained from playing his trade. And last week the European Court said the same about Bosman. We modified the worst features of the transfer racket in the Sixties. Thanks to the PFA our players have more freedom to move, and any disputes about end-of-contract transfer fees are settled by an arbitration tribunal chaired by the estimable Sir John Wood. Five per cent of all transfer money goes into a central fund for the players' benefit, which since 1990 has received £20 million.

UT deep down everyone knows that it is wrong for football clubs — or anyone else — to sell players with whom they have no contract. The Bosman case, although technically inapplicable to internal British transfers, has reminded us of that.

Some clubs will tell you that they do not "sell" players but receive "compensation". Transfers redistribute money to the smaller clubs who find young talent, nurture it, and sell it on. It keeps them in business. UEFA tried that on the European Court. The argument got it nowhere. Quite apart from the disagreeable principle involved, the system makes little practical sense unless the original club gets a cut from all subsequent transfer deals — which many now do. But on what basis? The original club can sell only what it owns, and the links between a player's first and last move can be tenuous. Take Charles Coleman. A youth trainee at Manchester City, he left at 17 on a "free transfer" to Swansea because he was homesick. In 1991 Swansea sold him for £375,000 to Crystal Palace, who in turn sold him to Blackburn for £2.8 million. Manchester City picked up £50,000 from the first move and £208,000 for the second, for which Swansea also got £216,000. Read the small print in free transfers.

This racket is neither edifying — because the longer the chain the more inflated the transfer fees — nor is it just because the pay-back to clubs along the chain hardly reflects their investment in the player's development. Why should the original club benefit more from a player who moves around rather than one who is loyal to one club? GORDON TAYLOR of the PFA, who argues that there are benefits for players in the present system, recognises its anomalies. "If transfer fees were compensation," he says, "they should pertain out in a player's late twenties when his development period is over. But commercial value is built into the system."

UEFA was given short shrift in the Bosman case by Karl Otto Lenz, the advocate general, who drily pointed out that if it really wanted to help small clubs a more effective method might be to share ticket sales or television rights with them. The Premier League has been quick to take this point on board and recognises that, apart from the glaring loopholes left by the Bosman case, there might be more legal challenges to the British transfer system.

So it is now talking of other methods of redistributing the money in the game. It is disenchanted with the way UEFA has handled the affair. So is the PFA. And the European Commission. Slaves cannot breathe in England," said William Shakespeare in 1760. "They touch our country, and their shackles fall." Just in case, make sure there's a Belgian footballer handy.

Adams call-up could leave Bacher blue if black fans fail to find tickets

Report by Mike Selvey

IN AN article entitled Time To Take The Plunge, in this year's South Africa Cricket Annual, Conrad Hunte, the former West Indies batsman who is now national development coach for the United Cricket Board, argues the urgent need for black cricketers to be selected on merit for South Africa.

In the article he talks of progress made, of the six development players who toured England last summer with the Under-19 side, and of two others "who I think will first make it to the top and hold their places in the South African national team", namely a wicketkeeper, Lulama Masikazana, and an off-spinner, Shafiek Abrahams, both from Eastern Province. There is no mention of Paul Adams.

In London in July, before the annual's publication, Dr Ali Bacher briefed the media on expectations for England's current tour. During his discourse the managing director of the UCB mentioned four up-and-coming spinners. He did not mention Adams either. So this week's selection of the 18-year-old Cape Coloured spinner for the fourth Test represents a meteoric rise by any standards and a triumph for the efficacy of the development plan unforeseen even in Bacher's wildest dreams.

Adams's selection is a huge piece in a jigsaw aimed at creating what Bacher describes as "cricket as a brand" in South Africa. Attempts have



been made here, both last season and this, to create a Test-match culture. Aggressive marketing and a competitive pricing system have, in theory, made Test matches accessible to all. For example, television advertisements preceding the series used the pace bowler Allan Donald. Pictures showed Dave Richardson, South Africa's wicketkeeper, retreating into the crowd as a voice-over said: "Donald bowls at 145kph. In this series he just might be a bit quicker." No opportunity, from drinks intervals to standing in a telephone queue in the UCB offices, has been missed to play a jingle based on the old 10CC hit Dreadlock Holiday. "Don't Like Cricket, I Love It."

Next month, during the one-day series, a R2 million (£400,000) advertising campaign will hit television, radio and the press. Its purpose will not be to sell international cricket *per se* but to try to demonstrate what is now achievable within the black community that was once out of reach. The campaign features Makhaya Ntini, a young fast bowler who is one of Hunte's half-dozen on the Under-19 tour. He made his first-class debut for Border against England last month. Four years ago Ntini scarcely knew length from line: now here he is as the chosen role model.

Adams has, however, got there first, pre-empting and perhaps rendering the marketing budget redundant: no agency could have invented this and got away with it. There is a problem, however. Not whether the nation is ready for the likes of Adams but whether the authorities can cope. Three years ago South Africa made their return to Test cricket with a match against India in Durban, a city with a huge Indian population, on the obvious marketing premise that the game would be a sell-out. In fact Kingsmead, with a capacity of 22,500, sold only 25,000 tickets in all.

The UCB realised that in order to attract the disadvantaged masses the whole philosophy of pricing had to be addressed. So last season, for matches against Pakistan and New Zealand, a price structure was created that deliberately pitched not so much low as subterranean. A top price of about £10 secures a good pre-booked grandstand seat on weekend days, and at the other end of the market an adult can purchase, on the day, a place in the open stands or grass banks for R15 (about £3) on days three and four and for R12 on days one, two and five.

"Nowhere are prices for a Test match lower, and in this day and age it staggers me that the strategy is not used worldwide. It was conceived to flood the grounds with people," says Bacher. Income, he adds, has already been obtained, primarily from lucrative television deals with the likes of Sky, Star and Channel 7 and a pay channel in Australia and then from sponsorship.

Bacher cites the Kiwis' match in Cape Town last year as "terrific" in terms of public response, and he revealed last month that for England's fifth Test there in the new year a guaranteed 70,000 seats have been pre-sold, including 2,500 a day for British visitors. Given good weather the total could rise to more than 80,000.

But that was before Adams. In Johannesburg the cheapest areas, with their carnival atmosphere, were well populated throughout the match despite an absence of black faces; now the chances are that the Cape Town Test will take place with the son of a trawlerman from Grassy Park on the field. Adams will be a huge ethnic magnet, and ticket demand seems likely to outstrip supply. For Bacher and his board, who have worked ceaselessly to attract a racially mixed audience, it would be disastrous if those finally drawn to the game were now to be denied entry when it matters most.

THREE TO WATCH

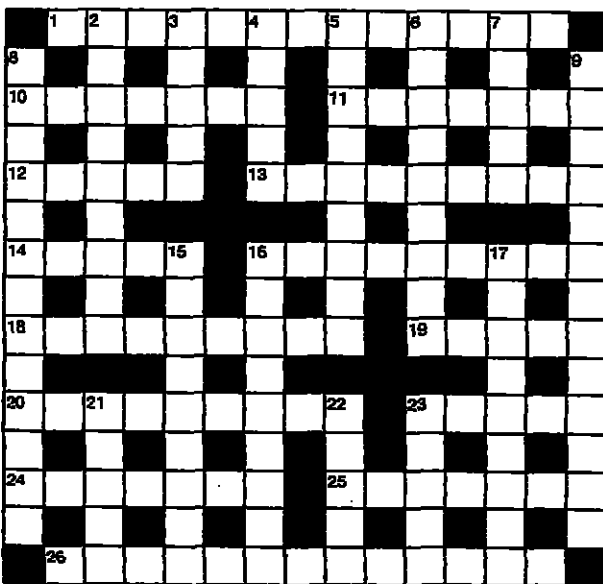
MAKHAYA NTINI: this right-arm fast bowler, aged 19, was born in Mdingi township near King Williams Town. He had a haul of three for 32 against England Under-19 in the year he took up cricket. Leading wicket-taker for South Africa Under-19 in this year's tour of England. Made his first-class debut for Border A this season.

ASHWELL PRINCE: right-hand opening bat, aged 18. Born in Port Elizabeth. Represented Eastern Province Schools in 1993-94 and played three "Tests" against England Under-19 this year. Made his first-class debut for Eastern Province this season. Student at University of Port Elizabeth Cricket Academy under Kepler Wessels.

AHMED OMAR: this right-handed middle-order batsman/wicketkeeper is also aged 18. He toured England with South Africa Under-16 in 1992 and on this year's Under-19 visit to England he made 123 runs in the first "Test" at Taunton. At present he is undertaking studies in sports management at Rand Afrikaans University.

Guardian Crossword No 20,529

Set by Fawley



- Across**
- 1 Clue to "glibness" perhaps has good and bad points (5,8)
 - 10 Road ran unpredictably in mountainous country (7)
 - 11 Naive girl appears sincere in coming forward (7)
 - 12 Not feeling comfortable in formal shirt? (5)
 - 13 Once over in Germany, worker is very enthusiastic (9)
 - 14 Not quite deserving evaluation (5)
 - 16 Caught? A hat-trick, almost, but tumbling — venturing emotion? (9)
 - 18 Educational organisation — (9)
 - 19 — part of what you need if you've to improve culturally (5)
 - 20 English doctor swallows a wrong tablet, under pressure (9)
 - 23 Manage to get round second wood (5)
- Down**
- 2 Popular form of art with odd lack of 57 (9)
 - 3 Almost beheaded before one's time? (6)
 - 4 Jack's not right — show great anger (5)
 - 5 Some protocol is quite silly — better to avoid extremes (9)
 - 6 Separate pieces of Easter egg? (9)
 - 7 Fighter thrown in jail for a short stretch (5)
 - 8 Be authoritative and relaxed with ill-gotten wealth (5,4,3,5)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,528

- 9 Where Lexington is twinned with Midland town, there's a classic race (8,5)
- 15 They may keep bowlers hanging about when no one's out (9)
- 16 Power group has new role for Spanish gentleman (9)
- 17 Man follows dog, in the end (9)
- 21 A sign worry's not ended (5)
- 22 Victim of con trick swigs large dollop (5)
- 23 About to be worse off in the end (5)

Solution tomorrow
 © Published by Guardian Newspapers Limited at 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1A 3EP, and at 164 Deansgate, Manchester M4 2PS. Printed at the Guardian Press Centre, 2 Millharbour, London E14 6HG. Trifold Park Printers, Longbridge Road, Warwick CV3 5EF. Tel: 01927 55111. Advertisers: Advertisers' Service, 1, 6078 New-Isenburg/Capehorn/Heim, Germany: Nord-Süd, 5521 rue de la Gare, 59000 Roubaix, Cedex 1, France, for and on behalf of the Guardian and Manchester Evening News PLC. 40, Westway, London NW10 7UL. Tel: 0171 222 2222. Fax: 0171 222 2222. Telex: 811746 (Guard G). Fax: 0171 222 2114; 0171 553 5342. Telephone sales: 0171 211 2120. Manchester Tel: 0161 532 7200. Fax: 0161 532 5351/5354 5117. Tel sales: 0161 534 8888.

Long after we had forgotten French nuclear tests, their traces may be detectable in the bodies of cancer victims. This is the conclusion of Dr Chris Busby, a self-taught epidemiologist who believes our increased exposure to extremely low doses of radiation in food and water can account for much of the steep rise in cancer since 1945.

Society G2 page 11

صباح الخير